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**NSIDE THE TABLOID** 



TRENDS PAGE 16

# Britain quits a grisly trade

THURSDAY 22 MAY 1997

Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced a complete ban on anti-personnel landmines. which kill or maim an estimated 20,000 people a year, mainly in the poorest areas of the world. British stockpiles will be destroyed by 2005 - sooner if an international ban is agreed.

Until then, there will be a moratorium on their use by the Armed Forces. Some mines will be kept to be used "in exceptional circumstances", and only with Parliamentary approval, following pressure from Service chiefs. The ban includes the manufacture, transfer, import, and export of anti-per-

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, told MPs yesterday that the mines had caused "enormous carnage", often to innocent civilians and children, and the sooner Britain took a lead in getting rid of them the better. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "Every hour, another three people lose their life

or lose a limb from stepping on a landmine. "Thousands of young children who ran on to a landmine are left unable to run ever again. Landmines have limited

military use but create unlimited civilian casualties." The ban follows a highly successful and emotive campaign led by the Red Cross, which has described the mines as "the most ruthless of terrorists", and which hugely raised the campaign's profile when, Diana, Princess of Wales, visited Angola under its auspices in January.

Pictures of the Princess wearing body armour and a helmet

with a visor, learning how to dispose of mines, and of the ghast-ly injuries inflicted on civilians, particularly children, contributed to growing pressure for

a world-wide ban. So-called "smart" mines. which destroy themselves after a period of time, and which the previous Government was examining as a possible replacement for present mines, are also



Princess Diana: Angola visit raised campaign's profile

banned completely - a major victory for campaigners against landmines, who argued that not all "smart" mines can be relied on to self-destruct. Although Britain has not ex-

ported such weapons for years, the Government ban is seen as setting an example to other countries. Mr Cook said Britain would play a fuller part in the Ottawa talks, which are trying to get an international ban on landmines, and will redouble its efforts to get one at the Geneva Conference on disarmament. But the effect on the world's main mine manufacturers - Russia, China and In-

dia – may be less Ministry of Defence sources yesterday refused to say how many of the three types of antipersonnel mine they still had, cause it was an indicator of British military capability, but it is believed to be tens of thousands. The previous govern-ment had announced a 40 per cent cut in landmines: the new administration is committed to destroying them all by 2005, but that could be sooner if the 50 countries involved in the Ottawa process agree a ban by the end

Two British weapons have also been re-defined as anti-personnel mines - the L27 anti-tank mine, which can be set off by a person, and the HB 876 bomb. one of the components of the RAF's airfield busting JP-233.

"It's excellent," said Will McMahon of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade. "We obviously welcome it as an opening move by the new government against the arms export trade. We have to see the small print. But the UK is clearly taking a stance internationally."

He added: "We hope it is

something the Labour government does in other areas. For example, armoured vehicles to Indonesia".

Tim Carstairs, of the UK Working Group on Landmines. said: "Good - tempered with concern about the moratorium. Is this loophole there in order to use mines? Our experience is that when troops have mines, they use them." He added: "But the whole

concept of mines in the future is kicked out of the door. "And reclassifying those two mines obviously sends a very im-

portant message to companies which might be tempted to try to avoid export controls."



### Kisses, hugs and stony faces as Ulster meets New Labour

Javid McKittrick eland Correspondent

The snarling stone gryphons which hard the steps of Belfast's Stormont Castle seemed aghast yesterday as Labour's new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland stood in their shadlow and pushed forward policies full of innovation and, of course, risk.

On the same day as a Sinn Fein delegation trooped past the gryphons to talk to officials about a new ceasefire, Mo Mowlam was criss-crossing Northern Ireland from one marching flashpoint to another, meeting Orangemen and Catholic residents' groups.

The ceiling of the castle's entrance

hall may remain encrusted with cobwebs - which it does, literally as well as figuratively - but Ms Mowlam's message is that she is in the business of blowing away the cobwebs. We will move," she said, in front of the gryphons. "Tony Blair made it ab-

solutely clear that we intend to get momentum into this and to get moving."

The flamboyant baronial castle had always seemed a fitting home to Ms Mowlam's predecessor, Sir Patrick attitude of the officials he met: "It was Mayhew, whose vice-regal sedateness chimed perfectly with its turrets and battlements. But now its principal resident is in the business of audacious outreach rather than of simply holding the fort. The style, and therefore the sub-

stance, has changed; Sir Patrick's in-grained Tory pessimism giving way to the new optimism of new Labour. The Tory formality has gone too: Sir Patrick never greeted reporters with "Hello sweethearts," nor kissed Ulster Television's political correspondent.

Yesterday a new start was made on two fronts, the quest for a new IRA ceasefire and the pursuit of a non-confrontational marching season. On the first front, Martin McGuinness led a Sinn Fein delegation for his first meeting with government representatives

Afterwards Mr McGuinness said the election had brought a change in the very clear to me from their demeanour at the meeting that they are now working for a new set of employers."

He and Ms Mowlam both said it had been agreed to hold another meeting but she made it clear that this could change if the IRA broke the undeclared suspension of violence which has been in effect for more than three weeks.

While Ms Mowlam did not make a continuing suspension of violence an absolute condition for a further meeting, in speaking to reporters she three times referred to its importance. She declared: "Very usefully, there has been an agreement in principle that they will meet again, conditions on the ground remaining, which I think is the posi-

tive story from the meeting."

since the IRA's bombing of the Lon-don Docklands in February last year. and Mr McGuinness referred to the complication of the Irish general election which is due to be held on 6 June. He said: "Many people who are close to this process are very conscious about that and about the need for those elections to be out of the way."

This appears to suggest that vital Mo Mowlam: Sweeping away cobwebs moves in a new peace process will await the outcome of the election, which at the moment appears set to be a close contest. There is also a feeling that any new ceasefire may not arrive until the Drumcree parade, with its threat of another confrontation, is out of the way.

From the Unionist side came criticism of the Secretary's action in meeting residents' groups, some of which are regularly denounced by Unionist politicians and Orangemen as "Sinn Fein -IRA fronts". Ms Mowlam's rejoinder dwelt on her endorsement of dialogue:



that is the only way we're going to move

the process forward."

There was also criticism of timing the meetings with Sinn Fein and the residents' groups, since vesterday was polling day in the local council elections. The Rev Ian Paisley, the DUP Mowlam's honeymoon period was over: "We have seen the tip of the iceberg today of new Labour's real policy. Prisoners brought over here ... the talks going on at Stormont and in the we story from the meeting."

"In the end there is no other answer but midst of an election day the Secretary While she stressed the urgency of for people to sit down and talk because of State consorting with law-breakers."

Bank surprise signing his position as Governor of the Bank of England in protest at the abrupt removal of his powers of banking supervision this transfer of its regulatory au-against the Cypriot fisherman she thority to the enlarged SIB only claims infected her during a hol-24 hours before the announce- iday romance.

ment by the Chancellor, Gordon

Aids evidence

Janette Pink has summoned all her strength in spite of the Aids week. The Bank was told of the she is suffering to give evidence

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## Non-shouty questions set the right tone

Tonetone the Boy Prime Minster had had a busy morning, reviewing the entire judicial system and barming landmines. Forest and parming landnings.

Forest were still shell-shocked

first cigarettes, then alcohol
and now landmines. What'll a thap do on a Saturday night?"). Now it was time for his first, brand-new, non-shouty, once a week (it had been twice) double-length Prime Minister's Questions - and he was anxious that it go well.

Being extra brave he'd derided that he wouldn't use any hotes. Gone was that huge green folder, with its endless briefing papers and yellow highlit put downs. He was on his own! Furthermore, he'd be nice lo everyone, and set a positive



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Not everyone got it, of course. The sallow and highbious Eric Prentice (Lab, Pendle) - who has been wandering the bleak Lancashire moors too long - asked a strongly worded question about transport. "Passengers had been left high and dry by Stagecoach," he shouted, archaically. It was a "shaming indictment of the previous

administration". "Mmm," said
Blair, softly. "A shaming indicated the propose as an dictment? Well, we will have to

"What does he propose as an encore?" he greased.

Embarrassed, Tonetone did What interrogatory riches! He is company would be excepted come the revolution? leave that to others." Anyway, he went on, Mr Prescott would be dealing with transport. Mr Prescott gave a sweet little smile and nodded, like a kindergarten teacher encouraging constructive play among her four year olds.

After that, Labour seekers after truth took the niceness injunction to heart in an almost grisly way. Jean Corston (Bristol East), was the first of many. Would Tonetone care to set out his policies for convicting more nasty criminals? He would. He

ough) thought 26 bills in one plans to appoint a "drugs tsar". that his company might have to ten re Queen's Speech was just terrific. Happiest was Paddy Ash- cough up for the windfall tax. bed.

a bit of obscure namedropping, "as the Association of Estate Agents was saying just the other day ... " No-one langhed at the invocation of this dubi-

Stephen Twigg (Lab, Enfield

Southgate), the genial vanquisher of Michael Portillo, expressed concern about drugs. Since Twigg is a recent president of the National Union of Students, there was a chance that his complaint was against the soaring price of dope. But no. It was to tell us what he had been up Stuart Bell (Middlesbor- to earlier in the morning, and his

spent them asking tough things about extra dosh for education, and - in bite two - how Tonetone's figures didn't add up. "I do not accept that at all," replied the PM. An expert body (it may even have been the Association of Estate Agents again) had said his figures did add up. So don't worry.

It had been raining, and with play at the Oval stopped for bad weather - Mr Major had dropped in. He got three questions, all to do with the windanother invitation to Tonetone fall tax. He thought that Iain Vallance at BT had seemed suspiciously fed up to be told

Mr Major gently required a categorical assurance that no Labourite had behaved in this shocking way. So, in the best traditions of old and new Prime Minister's Questions, Tonetone gave a categorical assurance - about something else entirely. If it does transpire

that some maverick teenager did speak out of turn to the BT man, at least the new PM will not have lied to the House. And that - more or less - was that. It had all been rather successful. The MPs quite liked it. Sensible exchanges had been

had, and there was still time for ten radical new measures before



THE BROADSHEET

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#### significant shorts

#### Union chiefs stride back into corridors of power

After nearly two decades out in the cold union leaders this week strode into the corridors of power, it emerged yesterday. John Monks, TUC leader, held an unpublicised meeting with the Prime Minister at Downing Street on Tuesday and a day earlier a phalanx of senior trade unionists broached the issue of employees' rights with Margaret Becket, President of the Board of Trade.

Following the first meeting yesterday of the TUC's inner circle since the election, Mr Monks announced the union movement's Budget submission and welcomed a "substantially changed mood" in Whitehall and Westminster. Apart from the sessions acknowledged by Mr Monks, union leaders have been in frequent contact with the Government over a wide range of issues from the future of the Post Office to the reform of the health service.

Speaking after a meeting of the TUC's executive committee, Mr Monks congratulated ministers for getting off to a "cracking start" by signalling the end of the union ban at GCHQ, the introduction of a minimum wage and the reversion to national bargaining in the NHS. He said: "For 18 years unions have been systematically excluded from playing their proper role in representing their members' interests to government and policy-makers. This has now changed.

#### School nurse cuts threaten pupils

Children are being put at risk by swingeing cuts in the number of school nurses, it was claimed yesterday. The result was likely to be more children and teenagers suffering from mental and behavioural problems or eating disorders, falling prey to substance abuse and getting pregnant, nurses warned. The Royal College of Nursing yesterday launched a major campaign to save the school nurse, seen by the profession as an unsung hero.

The RCN is to press the Government to make it a statutory requirement for every child to have access to a school nurse. Members of the RCN meeting at their annual congress in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, later voted on an emergency resolution on the issue. The RCN said school nurses - who number about 5,000 - were being "picked off" to achieve cost cuts because they were a soft target.

#### Camelot TV claims rejected



The National Lottery operator Camelot's complaint against a BBC Panorama programme in which the Virgin boss Richard Branson (left) alleged that he had been offered a bribe by Camelot was thrown out by the Broadcasting Standards Commission yesterday.

In the programme last December, Mr Branson claimed that Guy Snowdon, head of computing company GTech and a member of the Camelot consortium, offered

him an "inducement" to pull out of bidding for the lottery before the franchise was awarded. Camelot complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that the programme acted unfairly because it did not fully inform the company of the seriousness of the programme's allegations before interviewing one of its senior staff, did not allow the company to put its side of the story and edited the programme in a selective and unfair manner.

The BSC rejected all of Camelot's complaints.

Paul McCann

#### **Greenpeace in frontier venture**

Greenpeace yesterday launched an ambitious campaign to halt oil exploration and production in the "Atlantic Frontier", north-west of Scotland. The deep continental shelf waters are seen as the most promising area for substantial offshore oil production around Britain as North Sea fields run down; already BP and Shell have made discoveries. The environmental group argues that if the threat of catastrophic climate change is to be averted then oil exploration has to cease, because the burning of existing reserves will in itself cause dangerous global warming. Nicholas Schoon

#### Ott-licence shelves alcopop plans

Britain's biggest chain of off-licences has shelved plans to bring out an own-brand alcopop amid growing criticism of the controversial drinks. The Spar chain, which has 2,200 stores, said a planned range had been put on hold after allegations that the sweetflavoured drinks deliberately target under-age drinkers.

#### Lloyd-Webber's £3.5m wine sale

The sale of Lord Lloyd-Webber's wine collection at Sotheby's in London fetched a total of more than £3.5m, smashing the pre-sale estimate of between £2.52.7m, the auction house said.

Men worn down by thrill of the chase

Relentless pursuit of sex is wearing down the male population and sending them to an early grave, according to a British scientist.

After research into a species of nematode worm Dr David Gems has concluded that men could possibly live an extra 13.5 years and the worms could increase their lifespan by two-thirds, if they stopped chasing females. Dr Gems, a geneticist at University College London, claims that although women traditionally live longer, it is really men who are programmed to live further into old age. There would be more old men than old women if it were not for their sex drive, he says in the latest New Scientist magazine.

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Big ideas

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BITING HUMOUR: The veteran comedian Jerry Lewis, ready to devour his wife in public yesterday, as he arrived in London to star in Damn Yankees at the Adelphi Theatre (Photograph: Reuters)

### Britain's Jackson Pollock gives away £1m of art

he artist known as the British Jackson Pollock yesterday donated works valued at more than £1m worth of his works to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

The gift, by Alan Davie, was made after the gallery was able to buy four of his early works with money from the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

He donated 13 oil paintings and 14 gouache drawings, including several works that are of world renown, because he wanted the "cream" to be kept in his native Scotland

Alan Davie was born in Edinburgh in 1920, and the works donated include his earliest self-portrait, made when he was 17, and some of his famous large abstract oils on canvas.

During the 1950s and 1960s, at the height of his career, he was regarded by many as the European equivalent of American artists Poliock and Mark Rothko, some of whose colourful and powerful abstracts are prominently shown in the Tate Gallery in London, and command vast sums in the international art market.

Mr Davie said yesterday: "It gives me great satisfaction that a major collection of my work will belong to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

"I have been feted all over the world and it does now seem as if I am becoming more appreciated in my own

"In the past, so much of my work has gone abroad, but I have always kept the cream of my work for myself so that it could remain in Scotland."

Patrick Elliott, a curator at the Edinburgh gallery, said: "He is arguably the most important post-war Scottish painter and this is the first time the National Heritage Lottery Fund has been used to buy works by a living

"There aren't that many Scottish artists who are worldrenowned, and it will create a lot of local interest. "He is not only a great artist, but a popular one too. A double whammy for us."

Six of the paintings are on display at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and will remain on show throughout the summer.

#### Barbie's new friend is wheeled out

A new member of the Barbie doll family was introduced to the public yesterday - one that uses a wheelchair and is intended to change attitudes about people with disabilities.

"Share a Smile Becky" is the new 11-and-a-half-inch friend of Barbie, who comes in a bright hotpink wheelchair. The strawberry blonde doll wears a turquoise outfit with a white shirt underneath emblazoned with IDEA, standing for Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

The doll, made by Mattel, would help dispel uneasiness some people have around those with disabilities, the company said.

Hannah Withers, aged 9, of Springfield, Virgina, who has cerebral palsy, stroked the doll's hair as she sat in her own wheelchair and exclaimed with a big grin, 'She's in a wheelchair.'

"I was so excited," said Hannah's mother, Tina. \*Becky's legs, you can bend the knees. This is something Hannah is working on." The bendable joints is an exclu-

sive feature of Becky. James Brady, the former press secretary to Ronald Reagan who was paralysed in a 1981 assassi-

nation attempt, said he planned to use the doll as a "teaching guide." "Barbie is still the same Barbie.

She's still cool," he said. The doll is being sold exclusively in Toys R Us stores across the US, and hit the shelves at \$19.99 Between 4,500 and 6,000 dolls have been sold nationwide. Mattel officials said.

"Barble's world reflects the real world. Barbie has African-American friends. She has Asian friends. She has Hispanic friends. She has men and women friends.

This is another doll in her world that will really showcase the richness and the diversity that we see in the real world today," said Mattel's product manager, Maria Libraty, AP, Washington Libraty,

#### Solzhenitsyn has heart trouble

Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who fought the Soviet Union before turning his fire on capitalist Russia, has been admitted to hospital with a heart condition, his

assistant announced vesterday. "He feels all right and did not have a heart attack," said Munira Urazova.

The 79-year-old Nobel laureate was admitted to the Central Clinical Hospital on 12 May

Solzhenitsyn won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970 for writings which publicised the harshness of the Soviet prison camp system, in which he spent nearly a decade.

Expelled from the Soviet Union in 1974. Solzhenitsyn lived in exile in rural America for 20 years before returning to Russia, where he attacked its new leaders for being

just as bad as the communists. The author of A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, First Circle and Cancer Ward has led a discreet life since his weekly television programme was taken off the air in

The bearded firebrand, who says his country has lost its spiritual roots and favours a kind of 19th century rural nationalism, was widely criticised for being out of touch with modern Russia after his. long exile.

Reuters, Moscow

#### Inquiry into jet-set college chief 'flawed'

An investigation into the expenses claimed by a jetsetting university vice-chancellor saw "errors of Judgement", the Government's public spending watchdog said yesterday. The National Audit Office found that Portsmouth

University had not complied with good practice in its handling of allegations against Neil Merritt, who resigned as vice-chancellor in December, 1994. The university had incurred "significant costs" during its investigation, including around £140,000 for an

independent inquiry, the NAO said. Portsmouth University governors launched an initial investigation in the autumn of 1993, after it emerged that Mr Merritt had claimed on expenses for club class air travel on two trips to Egypt and the Far East when he had in fact downgraded to two economy class tickets for himself and his wife, making a profit of £1,457.

A year later, the vice-chancellor's secretary reported concerns that her boss was misrepresenting his expenses to evade VAT, and Mr Merritt handed in his resignation shortly afterwards.

The National Audit Office said there was no evidence that anyone involved in handling the investigation had acted improperly, but said that the university's audit committee had misjudged the seriousness of the vice-chancellor's actions because it did not involve the theft or the loss of university funds.

It recommended that other universities learn lessons from Portsmouth's experience in setting procedures on handling misconduct for senior staff In addition, it called for the Department for Educa-

tion and Employment to offer more guidance on the duties and responsibilities of governing bodies.

#### **Asthma gene mutation** discovered on island

Researchers have identified a mutated gene that makes people susceptible to asthma, having discovered it on one of the world's most isolated islands.

Sequana Therapeutics analysed DNA from about 300 people on Tristan da Cunha, an island in the south Atlantic, about 1,500 miles from South Africa. About 30 per cent of the island's residents have asthma, apparently passed on from an original settler. The pinpointing of the mutated genes eventually could help

identify people at risk of getting sick, and also could suggest new drugs for treatment. We found a difference - a change in that DNA that is different in people who have asthma than those that don't have the disease."

said Bob Giargiari, of San Diego-based Sequana. The researchers said that, of the estimated 15 million Americans

with asthma, up to 10 per cent seemed to have a genetic predisposition to the disease.

#### SOCIETY

#### Lunch - not to be taken lightly

Sandwiches have become the latest status symbol for ambitious office workers, according to market research carried out by the supermarket chain Tesco. Bosses are making sure they order more expensive sandwiches than their secretaries, who will in turn order

more expensive sandwiches than the lowly receptionist.
According to Tesco, it's all to do with image. "Sandwiches are usually eaten at your desk, and everyone looks to see what the next person has bought," said a spokesman.

Well-paid executives invariably insist on designer sandwiches, made from speciality breads, rather than a mble sliced loaf.

It appears that businessmen simply don't want to be seen with a humble cheese sandwich. "They want to be seen as sophisticated knowledgeable bout food – and a sandwich which stands out in a crowd is used to give them psychological edge over their rivals, "said the spokesman.



#### SCHOOLS

#### ME taking toll in the classroom

The chronic fatigue illness ME is the biggest cause of long-term sickness absence in UK schools, a study published today claims. A survey responded to by 1,100 schools revealed ME was responsible for 51 per cent of long-term absence, while a fifth of schools had experienced cases of ME.

For every 100,000 children, there are 70 cases of ME, and more than a third of all cases occur in clusters - often in areas near

polluted open water, the research says.

Jane Colby, an ME sufferer who carried out the survey with consultant microbiologist Dr Elizabeth Dowsett, said: "This disease shows a very sinister pattern right across the school population. No-one can deny any longer how serious it is."

ME, which can leave sufferers so weak they can barely chew food, is more commonly associated with high-flying adults, earning it the nickname "yuppie fiu". However, awareness is growing of its capacity to strike in children, causing them to miss vital months of

Jane Colby writes on ME in Education Plus, in today's edition of The Independent Tabloid.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### T-rays could supersede X-rays The T-Ray could replace the X-Ray, with images that are sharper

and safer, according to research published today.

Scientists in New York say the terahertz rays – electromagnetic waves with frequencies that are measured in trillions of seconds could be used in everything from medicine to drug enforcement. Physicist Xi Cheng Zhang and his colleagues at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, say the imaging system can produce pictures with a resolution of up to 150 micrometres.

The team, whose findings were reported in New Scientist, is initially concentrating on its medical applications. The T-Rays could also be used to check silicon chip circuits, hunt for hidden drugs being loaded onto planes, look for defects in plastics and monitor food for freshness.

#### **ALCOHOL**

#### Record number fail breath-tests

More than 100,000 people breathalysed by police last year were over the drink-drive limit, the Home Office said yesterday. Police forces around the country carried out 781,000 roadside tests in 1996, the largest number ever. Of those, 100,500 were positive. In 1995, 94,400 out of 702,700 tests conducted were positive.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said the increase in the number of tests may have been a direct result of a policy decision last year to test all drivers involved in accidents. Kathy Marks last year to test all drivers involved in accidents.



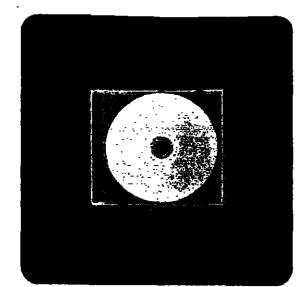
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# The Shirley Valentine devastated by Aids takes revenge on her fisherman lover



Good times, hard times Jan Pink and Pavios Georgiou (left) during their relationship, and (right) Miss Pink as she is now, her appearance dramatically changed by the onset of Aids, which caused her weight to plummet to

Archway pub in Agia Napa where the couple met, he declined to talk about the case. "I don't care about her. " he shouted in Greek, "Get out of my house before I punch you."

This morning the former lovers will separately make the 25-mile journey down the coast in the humidity of 27C temperature to the modern white court building in Larnaca, which is preparing for the case, the

If Mr Georgiou is convicted he is likely to come against prejudice and isolation in prison because of his HIV status. "This is not like England. Here we don't like people who have

The case has only been brought at all because of a tireless campaign by Mrs Pink and her family. The prosecution is based on an ancient island law aimed at limiting the

€ I want to go back to Cyprus to see his face in the dock ...

I wonder if he will be able to look me in the eye

Aids," said another local.

against those who fail to warn their sexual partners that they have HIV. In 1992, Kenneth Clarke, then Home Secretary, ruled out a crimi-

nal offence of knowingly transmitting HIV, and the only recourse in Britain is a manslaughter or murder charge, along with proof that the death of the victim was intended.

Mrs Pink, the former wife of a City accountant had travelled to

months, she saw Mr Georgiou occasionally, as a friend, until in April 1994 she realised she had fallen in love. He had, she says, confided to her that his wife was dying from leukaemia. In fact, Martha Georgiou was dying from Aids and the youngest of the couple's four children also had the virus. But unaware of her lover's HIV status, Mrs Pink agreed to unprotected sex.

Mrs Pink was said by friends to be "mesmerised" by her new lover who took her on trips to the snow-covered Cyprus mountains. Later she was happy to part with thousands of pounds from her divorce settlemen: to help him build a new boat.

But at Christmas, the truth began to unfold. Martha Georgiou died from Aids in a London hospital. As word spread in Cyprus, Mrs Pink's friends persuaded her to go for an Aids test. Even when she discovered she was HIV-positive, she could not overcome her infatuation. Believing that Mr Georgiou was the only per-

son who could now care for her, she moved into his home, and then in January last year became accidentally pregnant. Scared that the baby would be HIV-positive, she opted for a termination.

Within months, Mrs Pink had de-

veloped full-blown Aids and her

health rapidly deteriorated. The physical side of her relationship with Mr Georgiou came to an end. She last saw him at the harbour as she returned to Britain last August, desperately ill and close to death. Even now she needs 30 drugs a

day, morphine and frequent blood transfusions. Her partial recovery has been spurred, she says, by the realisation that her former lover could

still be passing the virus to others.

According to Mr Georgiou, Mrs Pink was aware all along of his HIV status and is now pursuing a vendetta. He said Mrs Pink had made a "big mistake" in seeking the prosecution. "Her motive is revenge. She was just

Only eight months ago, Janette Pink weighed harely five stone and could talk only in a whisper. Her skin had turned brown from the effects of Aids and doctors gave her 20 months

But today, summoning her strength she will have her day in a Cypriot court, giving evidence against the man she believes deliberately infected her with the deadly virus. It is this fight for justice which has strengthened her will to survive. Once too weak to stand, she has put on two stone and taken up swimming to build her strength. At the weekend she travelled

more than 2,000 miles from her home in Basildon, Essex, back into the searing summer heat of the Mediterranean holiday isle where she had set out on the dream of a new life only four years ago.

Mirroring the script of the film Shirley Valentine she uprooted from Britain after divorcing from a long marriage and then quickly fell in love. Tomorrow, for the first time in nine

months, she will set eyes on her former lover. Pavlos Georgiou, the man on trial for giving her Aids.

Mrs Pink, 45, is the chief prosecution witness. "I want to go back to

Cyprus to see his face in the dock,"

she said. "I wonder whether he will

be able to look me in the eye." She will allege that Mr Georgiou 39, a fisherman, gave her HIV through unprotected sex during an 18-month relationship which began with a chance meeting in a local bar, two months after she left England. Last night Mrs Pink was with friends and relatives in Agia Napa, the resort on the south-eastern tip of the island where she first met Mr Georgiou. Her former lover looked tired and angry last night at the prospect of appearing in court. Lying in front of the television in the

new apartment he has had built

alongside the family-run London

like of which has not been heard in Cyprus before.

Local feeling is running high. People are very angry with the Cypriot guy," said one local man. "He's a killer just the same as if he was using a gun. He has destroyed that woman and he should be hung."

spread of diseases like cholera and typhoid and carries a maximum sensum from her ex-husband and a gift typhoid and carries a maximum sentence of only two years in jail and a f£25,000 from her mother Sheila, £1,500 fine. But Mrs Pink and her to help pay for a new home. supporters believe the outcome of . the case could have vital implications alimni, a resort popular with British for the future, setting an international expatriates with a lively party circuit

precedent which could be used

She bought an apartment in Parwhich she quickly joined. For seven

### T-Rex's bite made worse by his gout | Poms deprived of the right to whinge

Matthew Brace

Poms, stop your whingeing. The age-old insult meted out to Britons by Australians (or Skippies, as we like to say when hurling back slang in return) is no longer derogatory, but a term of endearment.

Yesterday, the President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Sir Ronald Wilson, ruled that "pom" and "pommy" were un-likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate.

This, he notes, was "no Sir Ronald was dismissing a stranger to this denizen from the complaint - presumably from a vhingeing pom – against the

has been timed to cash in on the However, he said he could imagine, "albeit with some dif-ficulty", that the words could be unlawful in the context of an article which was plainly malicious

ety of origins, depending on who you talk to. Some say it came previous top price for a fossil.



that British First World War soldiers turned in the desert sun. Others believe it came from the initials of "Prisoner of Mother England", referring to the English convicts sent to Australia in

the 1700s and 1800s. The Oxford English Dictionary is clear about its inference.
"Pom" is Australian and New Zealand slang (usu. derog.), it says, above a description of the same word as "dried and powdered cooked potato". Australians may have lost a

popular insult yesterday but hose who really want to vent their anger on intruders from the UK can of course revert to another age-old favourite whingeing bath-dodgers".

When Britons arrive Down Under they are unused to the heat and continue, so the fable goes, to bathe only infrequently compared to their antipodean

One Skippy in Britain, Jonno Coleman, award-winning DJ at Virgin radio, and Sydney sider, said "pom" was now con-sidered a "badge of honour"

rather than an insult. "Poms are proud of it. It's better than 'wogs' - the name the Greeks or Italians get giv-

en by the Australians," he said. Mind you, the Greeks are so used to it now that when a group of them set up a theatre com-pany they called it Wogs out of Work."

#### Science Editor unamiable disposition has been attributed to an unrelieved diet of meat, It was grumpy, loud, and carnivorous: and the classic image which led to gout



T rex's ailment - is being auctioned in autumn in New York, with a reserve price of \$1m. Gout is caused by the for-mation of needle-shaped crystals of uric acid in the joints -

for \$10m, while another - which was key in the discovery of ineffective kidneys. Among famous sufferers was Henry VIII. erosion of the bone where the Before modern medicines (which can dissolve the crystals) were available, the usual treat-

crystals form - which is what Bruce Rothschild, of the Arthritis Center of Northeast.Ohio, in Youngstown, noticed in the right forearm of one of the three

most complete T rex skeletons (known as Sue). More studies on other bones of other skeletons confirmed signs of bone erosion peculiar to gout - which has been found in modern-day reptiles and birds, which are de-

eal scientific value of dinosaur skeletons - as opposed to their value to filmmakers. The \$10m price tag placed on the first skeleton, which includes a tooth 33cm long, is al-

scended from the dinosaurs.

The question, though, is why

T rex should have got gout, since it did not (as far as palaeontol-

ogists can tell) drink port or eat

butter, the usual causes in those genetically predisposed to the

disease. However, says Mr

Rothschild, another factor is

consumption of foods with high concentrations of chemicals

known as purines - plentiful in

The sale of T rex skeletons

red meat.

Cretaceous era."

the Spielberg film, and could provide a useful measure of the most 10 times greater than the

or scurrilous. The term "pom" has a varifrom the red, pomegranate bue

Naturally Greenpeace approves of chopping down trees to make window frames.

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# 'Crash' driven out of the West End for good

Arts News Editor

The Government was yesterday urged to step in and redefine what an 18 film certificate means, as Westminster councillors banned the controversial film Crash from being shown in London's West End.

The film will still open on 6 June at 40 cinemas nationwide including those parts of London outside the City of Westminster.

But in a surprisingly vitriolic judgement yesterday, Westminster's licencing sub committee's chairman labelled the film as "bordering on obscenity" liable to lead to copycat action and guilty of depicting women in a sexually humiliating way".

Even the three councillors who voted against the ban by the nine-strong Conservative controlled committee gave the film's producers little comfort. Labour councillor Kate Wilkins said afterwards "It's stupid to give all this publicity to the most boring, tedious film I've ever seen. And as usual in

an art film, it has women taking their clothes off." Crash directed by David Cronenberg and starring Holly Hunter and Rosanna Arquette, depicting its central characters as unfulfilled, and the sex as cold Yesterday's decision by West-

minster councillors to make its interim ban on the film permanent was especially important for its call on the Government to arrange for new independent guidelines for 18 films. At present, the guidelines used by the British Board of Film Classification (which has given Crash an 18 certificate) say that 18 certificate films cover those "requiring an adult understanding" including "nudity in a sexual context and graphic violence." Westminster councillors complained yesterday that "the guidelines for

under the heading."
Yesterday's committee meetcultures. A 69-year-old antiques dealer. John Bull, who chaired the sub committee, delivered a fierce denunciation of the film following an impassioned plea by 39-year-old Chris Auty, the film's executive producer. After

18 films are so wide that virtu-

ally any film could be classified

focuses on a group of people who his plea the committee went into gain sexual stimulation from private session to debate the car crashes. The film, based on merits of the film for more than the novel by J G Ballard, is how-ever made in a stylised manner two hours. Mr Bull read a state-ment on behalf of the committwo hours. Mr Bull read a statetee saying that the film was "bordering on obscenity".

He went on "The main characters in the film are shown as being sexually attractive, independently minded, interpersonally powerful, effective and tenacious. In short they are depicted to be attractive role models. It is for this reason the sub committee found the deviant behaviour of the main characters in relation to sex and car crashes most disturbing ... it is argued that the film taken as a whole could deprave and corrupt."

In his plea to the committee, Chris Auty said: "It seems to me that any commonsensical per-son seeing the film will acknowledge that it paints a disturbing world; one which has become cold, technological, dehumanised. Crash clearly ing provided a dramatic clash of warns us against dehumanisation, against a society drifting into affectlessness.

"Simply because it does not open with a statement of moral guidance does not mean that the film is not pre-occupied with



Last rites: mourners at the funeral in Edmonton, north London, yesterday of 'Sunglasses' Ron Staples, 'King of the Teddy Boys' Photograph: Brian Harris

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### Sahara's lost rivers reveal man at work

Charles Arthur Science Editor

The Sahara may be a by-word in deserts nowadays, but half a million years ago prehistoric hu-mans lived and made tools

there amongst plentiful rivers. Radar observations carried out by the Space Shuttle in 1981 pointed towards the existence below the Saharan surface of dried-up ancient riverbeds which, when they flowed, would have made ideal sites for early

humans to build villages. New, unpublished research the University of Arizona, suggests that the rivers were flowing about 400,000 years ago, and that those early humans made tools such as hand axes and even meat cleavers. The findings, from digging by a team of archaeologists from the university, indicates that what is now wasteland was once a fertile area. During previous ice ages
- the last of which was only

compared with chillier areas further north.

Today it is one of the most inhospitable places on the planet, devoid of vegetation, less than a millimetre of rain annually, and with baking temperatures. Present theories suggest that humans originated in the Great

Rift Valley area of central Africa, where fossils of hominids from up to 3 million years ago have been found. But palaeontologists have wondered about how widely early continent, and how they would have migrated to other countries. If they were well-established in northern Africa, using the fertile Sahara as a base, then they might have arrived in Europe and Asia far earlier than if they were mainly based in

were announced last January. Previously, imaging radar de-

10,000 years ago – it may have ployed from the Space Shuttle been a temperate, fertile region. has been used to uncover buried has been used to uncover buried parts of the Great Wall of China, providing precise indicators gin digging. The same radar has also been used to indicate the areas of northern Africa where

lided 650 million years ago. "These data reveal geologic structures buried beneath the thin skin of desert sands, like an X-ray's ability to study the inside of a human body," said Robert Stern, of the University of Texas at Dallas, who "If you're standing on the surface there is little to be seen. The geologic structures we are

inches to a few feet of sand." According to fossils found in 1995 in Kenya, the first hominids may have evolved about mid-Africa and migrated north. 4.2 million years ago, much Early results of the work earlier than "Lucy", who first walked upright 3.2 million years ago in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania.

### Moviegoers to get tonic with a whiff of gin

Kim Sengupta

Next time you go to the cinema, be prepared to have all your senses assailed. It is no longer just sound and vision, but smell which could also come into play.

An advertising company is launching the first smellyvision campaign for film goers to promote Gordon's Gin. As a gin and tonic is mixed on screen, the smell of juniper berries will waft across the au-

The aromatic effect will be created by releasing the scent of the berries through the au-ditorium's air conditioning sys-

tem. However, those hoping to odour has been linked to an ad-inhale a tipple will be disappointed. It is completely nonalcoholic and will dissolve in

carbon dioxide.

The week-long trial will begin at the Ritzy cinema in Brixion, south London, on Friday. If public reaction is favourable it will be launched nationwide.

Andy Neal, of United Dis-

tillers, said the company hoped that the £250,000 campaign would boost the revival of gin. which in common with many other spirits is trying to shake off its image as the older-per-

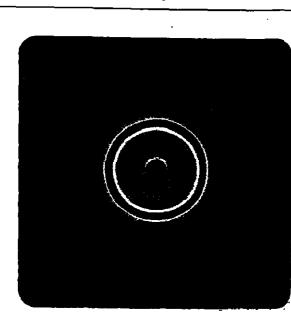
According to the British Film Institute, this is the first time an

movies with smells date back more than 50 years.

In 1940 audiences at My Dream smelt a range from flowers and forests to petrol and tar. The effect was repeated in the 1959 documentary Behind the Great Wall, Scent of Mystery the same year, and Polyester in 1982.

A spokesman for the Advertising Standards Authority said: "This is a new area in which cinema goers will have no choice in whether or not they want to be subjected to the smell in the advertisement. We shall have to see how the

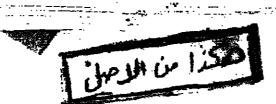




Big ideas in a small space

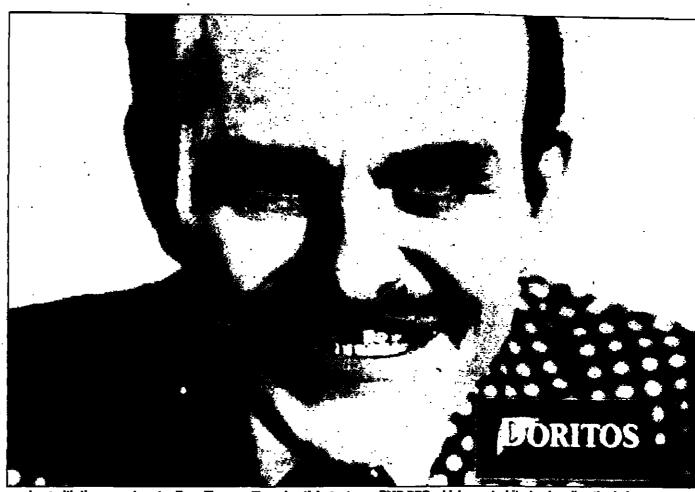








Blair's favourite persuader bags another victory for crisps



along with the comedy actor Terry Thomas. The advertising agency, BMP DDP, which created it also handles the Labour account

Tony Blair's favourite adman, Chris Powell, had more good news last night, when his advertising agency, BMP DDB, picked up the advertising industry's highest award for a piece of work that wasn't even

an advertisement. BMP DDB, which handles the Labour Party's account,

A PH SHE WAS THE

lost riven

in at worl

Oscars - the Design and Art Di-rection awards - for its sponsorship credits for Doritos

The credits, which were used during Doritos's sponsorship of a season of ITV film premieres, had the faces of film stars such as Terry Thomas and Bruce Lee superimposed on a pair of lips munching crisps and making appreciative noises. "This is the the Labour Party's account, first award to go to a sponsor-picked up the only gold of the night at the advertising world's a creative at Tango agency

HHCL & Partners and one of the judges. "It won because it was original and mould-breaking. Up until a few years ago sponsor credits were just graphics. It also won because it made

all the judges in the room

The same creative team from BMP DDB also won a silver award in the cinema category for its hard-hitting work for the Ministry of Sound nightclub's "Use Your Vote" ads. The cinema ads showed racists, homo-

phobes and yuppies and en- didn't like blackcurrants. It won couraged young people to vote in the longer advertisements category for the agency ple featured would.

The Doritos "munching mouths", which last only a few seconds, beat off the advertisement from Blackcurrant Tango, the heavily tipped industry favourite. The advertisement featured xenophobic spokesman Roy Gardner marching along the White Cliffs of Dover challenging a French schoolboy to a fight because he marching along the White Cliffs of Dover challenging a French schoolboy to a fight because he school because

ments category for the agency HHCL & Partners.

Also winning a silver was the third most complained about advertisement on British television last year. Nike's Euro '96 football match between evil demons and a side led by former Manchester United star Eric Cantona attracted com-

of worries it might scare chil-dren. The Good versus Evil ad, as it is known, was created by Nike's Amsterdam-based agency Wieden & Kennedy and won its silver in the ads under

60 seconds category. In the press advertising category Saatchi & Saatchi s controversial Club 18-30 advertising picked up a silver. Saatchi & Saatchi's "Beaver EsAdvertising Standard's Au-thority was deluged with complaints about the suggestive nature of the posters.

This time the ads ran in youth magazines like Loaded and kept their heavy reliance on double entendre to suggest sexfilled holidays for twenty-somethings. Copylines included: "One swallow doesn't make a

forced to hand it back when the bloke's boat". Mr Bayfield said it was easier for ads that sell youth products to win awards: "It is always the funny, beer ads or sexy ads that connect with the judges. It is also easier to make interesting ads that are just for one group. With soap powder you have to be careful not to turn anyone away, so its advertising is traditionally bland.
"I would love to see some-

thing as potent as the Ministry of Sound vote ads used to sell

### Princess in armour put focus on mines

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

There are an estimated 100 million anti-personnel landmines scattered around the world in 71 countries and they kill or maim - usually maim - an estimated 20,000 people a year, mostly civilians in the poorest areas of the world.

As the Red Cross, which has been in the forefront of the campaign against such mines said recently, they are "fighters that never miss, strike blindly, do not carry weapons openly, and go on killing long after hostilities are ended. In short, mines are the greatest violators of international humanitarian law. They are the most ruthless of

The Princess of Wales's visit. to Angola in January, in support of the Red Cross campaign, raised its profile dramatically. Pictures of the Princess wearing body armour and a helmet with a visor, learning how to dispose of mines, and of the ghastly injuries inflicted on civilians, particularly children, contributed to growing pressure for a world-

Angola is probably the most mined country in the world, with an astonishing one-and-a-half mines per inhabitant, or 10 to 15 million mines in all. More than 30,000 Angolans have had limbs amputated as a result of mine explosions.

Martin Bell, the new inde-

pendent MP for Tatton, said in his inaugural speech on Tues-day, "they are laid by soldiers against soldiers, but their principal victims are nearly always civilians and two categories of civilians - farmers and chil-

Anti-personnel mines are small devices which explode into fragments when detonated by their victim. They can be placed on stakes, scattered over the ground or buried slightly below it, and can be detonated by trip-wires, by pressure or just by



being touched. The brightly coloured "butterfly" mine, the most common found in Afghanistan, is particularly attractive to young children, who think it is a toy. Many have lost a hand, an arms, eyes or a face to those "toys".

The Government's announcement of a total ban on the import, export, manufacture and transfer of anti-personnel landmines and components for them marks a victory for a coordinated campaign run by the UK Working Group on Land Mines. Many organisations have been involved, including the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Oxfam, Save the Chil-dren, Action Aid, Christian Aid and, most active, the Red Cross.

One of the key problems in trying to ban anti-personnel land mines is defining what exactly they are. Anti-tank mines, which only go off when a heavy weight is driven over them, are

seen as legitimate weapons of war. But one of the British Army's mines, the L27, an antitank mine placed to one side of a road, could be set off by a person - and has therefore been re-classified as an anti-personnel mine. By a bizarre quirk of fate, the most dramatic effect of the Government's moratorium on the use of anti-personnel weapons will be that the Royal Air Force cannot use its JP-233 airfield denial weapon - because as well as bombs to blow holes in runways it contains small antipersonnel mines - HB 876 - to impede the runways' repair. The Government has now classified HB-876 as an anti-personnel weapon, and so its use is banned. JP-233, which has to be delivered from very low level - was the main reason why the RAF made a speciality out of low-level attack, and why it sustained such beavy losses in the 1991 Gulf War.

In practice, the Government's announcement yesterday was aimed at other countries. British forces have used mines in two recent wars: the Falklands in 1982 and the Gulf in 1991, and obeyed the rules of war which demand that minefields be clearly marked and recorded, and cleared the fields up afterwards. The most significant message will be to give a lead to the movement for an international ban. Fifty countries took part in the international conference in Ottawa in October last year. The Ottawa Group committed itself to the earliest possible date to ban the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of such mines.

The Foreign Office says Britain has not made or exported any mine since 1982, although the UK Working Group disputes that. Some British companies, including Ferranti and Marconi, have been accused of making mine fusing systems. Under the new rules announced yesterday, manufacture of components, as well as whole mines, is also banned.

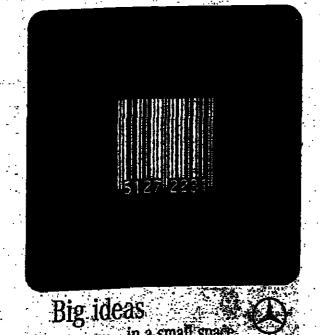
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# Specialist task force to target youth crime

Crime Correspondent

A specialist task force to help tackle juvenile crime is being set up by the Government, it was ced yesterday.

The 12-strong team, which will include experts from social services, the police and the Audit Commission, will advise the Home Secretary on future pol-

Secretary, Jack Straw also yesterday outlined plans for a major overhaul of the Crown Prosecution Service and repeated his pledge to deal with youth crime. This included forcing some young offenders to do community work and undergo extra education (such as Saturday morning schools), and random drug testing of some

Speaking at the Police Federation's annual conference in some much needed light on the Blackpool, Mr Straw revealed workings of the youth justice."

be set up within a few weeks. The unit will comprise invited representatives from organisations including the probation service, the Home Office, the Department of Health, social services, courts, police, and the Audit Commission, the public

spending watchdog.

The task force will help Mr icy and help draft new laws.

In his first major public speech since he became Home

Straw draw up the details of the forthcoming Crime and Disorder Bill, and advise on future Straw draw up the details of the policy and initiatives in dealing vith youth crime.

The decision to bring in ex-pert help emphasises the importance Mr Straw is placing on reducing juvenile offending. "The new task force will represent a significant change of approach," he said. "Too often, in recent years, we have seen change by diktat. I want change based on consent, openness and partnership. I want to shed

Task Force, which is expected to engine of change to drive the much-needed reforms of the youth justice system - a system which is currently slow and ineffective and which wastes up to £1bn of taxpayers' money

On the issue of the CPS, Mr Straw said that the Attorney-General would shortly announce that the organisation was being split into 42 areas one for each police area with a joint operation for London. A chief Crown prosecutor would be appointed for each area and would take over responsibility from the police of keeping vic-tims informed of the progress

Mr Straw said there would also be a review of the whole of the CPS to discover whether failings in the organisation were responsible for the fall in the number of prosecutions.

To a warm applause he outlined other measures to deal with young troublemakers.

ders" to force juvenile offenders to change their attitudes and behaviour. In the worst cases teenagers would be given a timetable of events they must follow, which could include carrying out community work or reparation for the victim and extra education, he said.

The Crime and Disorder Bill will also include a new drug treatment and testing order under which offenders whose crimes are connected to their addiction will have to undergo random tests. If the criminals, who could be burglars or rob-bers stealing to fund their habit, are found to be positive, they will be taken off their treatmen programmes and returned to court for sentencing.

Also speaking at the conference Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, called for more money to pay for ex-tra officers on the beat. He said the police service had been



Ground control: Martin Bell on the site yesterday Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid removing walkways.

### Bell touches down for flying visit to runway warriors

perent be st

The new MP Martin Bell yesterday called for a "model eviction" on his visit to the Manchester second-runway protest as officials continued their step-by-step attempt to shift demonstrators from the muddy, rain-drenched site.

muddy, rain-drenched site.

Mr Bell, who has been criticised by some protesters for not taking a stand against plans to build the runway in Bollin Valley, which straddles the Greater Manchester-Chester border, said his priority was the safety of all involved, and refused to take sides. and refused to take sides.

After a tour of the site, where the eviction began at 4am on Tuesday, Mr Bell told former media colleagues he supported the right to demonstrate peacefully and the right of bailiffs to remove people from the 1,000-acre wooded land, part of which is in his Tatton constituency. "I hope it will be a model eviction," he said.

He has reported to have raised with deputy under-sheriff Randall Hibbert allegations that a documentary-maker was hit on the head by bailiffs in Tuesday's operation, and claims by protesters that they had been kicked and some hit with batons.

Mr Bell said he would fight to ensure Manchester Airport did not become a "Heathrow of the North" and made it clear he disapproved of the airport in principle. "I do not see the volume of traffic merits the runway." But he said it was a "done deal" and he could not support breaking of the law. Although 40 people, including 11 yesterday, have left the protest voluntarily, plus 15 arrested on Tuesday, organisers claim there are now more demonstrators on the site than before as new protesters arrive, swelling their numbers to more than 100.

Tunnel engineers and tree-climbers among the sheriffs' officials yesterday removed people from the Jimi Hendrix camp, but the larger camps on the Cheshire side of the Bollin river, called Flywood, Live Rats, Wild Garlic and Sir Cliff Richard, are so far untouched. including the 70ft-long Cakehole tunnel The specialist teams, which may take a month to complete their work, are trying to isolate the camps from one another by

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### Labour orders inquiry into bribery claims

Stephen Goodwin

Labour ordered a "high-level" internal inquiry yesterday into allegations that Mohammed Sarwar, the MP for Glasgow Govan, gave a bribe to another candidate in the general

election campaign.
Mr Sarwar has admitted handing over £5,000 to Islam Badar, but argued that the money was a loan given after the election. He plans to take legal action against the News of the World over claims made in an article last Sunday.

The party's National Executive Committee met yesterday and said that a panel of three of its members would investigate and "leave no stone unturned."

Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, announced the move after the meeting, "We will not hesitate to take action. however, tough, if there is any proof of corruption, abuse or wrongdoing. As Tony Blair said this morning, we were elected to introduce higher standards and we will uphold higher stan-

Mr Sarwar said he "fully un-

derstood" the need for an inquiry and welcomed it. In a statement, the cash-and-carry millionaire echoed Mr Blair's commitment to higher standards in politics and insisted once again that the newspaper

allegations were "totally false". None the less, Mr Sarwar's prospects of hanging on as Britain's first muslim MP look bleak. His supporters in the frac-tious Govan Labour Party have begun to flake away, while the less committed hope he will resign by the weekend and let them prepare for the by-election they believe inevitable.

"The coalition of Sarwar people, left activists and ordinary members in Govan is disintegrating by the hour," a party source said. "This is a tragedy not just for Sarwar, but for people who have given years of work for the Govan party. It has all turned to ashes in two weeks."

One member of the panel will be Alan Johnson, former general secretary of the Union of

### Mandelson to be minister without any questions

Political Editor

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, has also become the Minister without Questions. It emerged yesterday that he is to be the only Commons minister who will not be subjected to the regular sessions of gruelling, question time cross-examination by MPs.

The curious office of Miniser without Portfolio dates back to 1915, but for the last 50 years or so, office-holders in the Commons have always been available for questioning in the House.

The only exceptions appear to be Jeremy Hanley and Brian Mawhinney, but they were also chairmen of the Tory Party, and were therefore not paid ministers; the job was a device to give them access to Cabinet etings and ministerial papers.

Mr Mandelson, who is based in the Cabinet Office, and has responsibility for the presentation and co-ordination of gov-Communication Workers and now MP for Hull West and ministerial salary of £31,125 in Hessle. The investigation will begin immediately and run parallel to the police investigation.

addition to his MP's pay of £43.860. As Tory chairmen, Mr Hanley and Dr Mawhinney

were also ministers without a

But last week, the official Commons record, Hansard published a definitive list of the new government, which put Mr Mandelson as number two in the Office of Public Service (OPS). under David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cabinet minister responsible for the Civil Service.

Mr Mandeslon was given the same OPS post in the official House of Commons Weekly In-formation Bulletin this week.

As one of three Ministers in the OPS, Mr Mandelson would have been available for questioning by MPs in the Commons on 4 June, immediately before the new, weekly half-hour session of Prime Minister's Ques-

tion Time. But Whitehall sources said yesterday that there had been a mistake: Hansard and the Bulletin had got it wrong; Mr Mandesion was not part of Mr Clark's team in the OPS; and he is therefore not available for oral questions in the House. A spokeswoman said, however, that he would answer written Commons questions.

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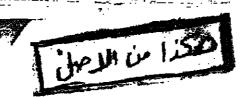
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WAN SE THE INDEPENDE

# Referendums to be staged by autumn

The Bill to pave the way for devolution for Scotland and Wales was given an overwhelming sec-ond reading in the Commons last night with a promise that referendums will be held by the end of September.

A White Paper setting out the Government's detailed plans for the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament will be published. lished "well ahead" of the ref-erendums, Donald Dewar, the erendums, Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scot- of the Referendums (Scotland land, told the Commons.

Tories, anti-devolution Labour MPs including Tam Dalyell, and the House of Lords.

The Tories are expected to table amendments for thresholds to be achieved in the referendum, in the Bill's failed to win any seats in Scot-committee stage, which will be land and Wales in the election. taken on the floor of the House after the Whitsun recess.

Mr Dewar warned the Tories they would be accused of "ballot rigging" if they tried to "revisit" the 40 per cent rule requiring a yes vote from at least 40 per cent of all eligible vot-ers, on which the 1979 Labour

asked to vote in the referendums on the principle of devo-Welsh Assembly and the Scot-tish Parliament has been introduced in Parliament. And Mr Howard warned that the Union would "begin to fray in a matter of months".

The chasm between the two and Wales) Bill threatens to Ministers will use the refer- continue through the summer endum results to limit the chal- as the Tories, under a new lenges to the main legislation by leader, are expected to cam-Tories, anti-devolution Labour paign for a "No" vote.

However, the Tories came under immediate fire from the Liberal Democrats for being the Opposition, when they had

Rejecting the claims that the Tories lacked legitimacy to oppose devolution, Mr Howard, the former home secretary, said Labour feared the public would turn against devolution, if they knew the details before the referendums were held.

Michael Howard led Tory dented and anti-democratic approtests that the people of Wales and Scotland would be There were also Tory backbench leading Euro-sceptic, over the relution before the main fusal to allow English voters a legislation to establish the referendum. But Labour MPs shouted: "They have had a vote - and you lost mate!"

Mr Dewar said there was stantive legislation would be introduced before the end of the year, and elections to the new Scottish Parliament would be held as "soon as practical after



#### PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS





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### Hague blames defeat on Major

John Major's Conservative government was tarnished by the

perceived sleaze, greed, self-indulgence and division of society, the Tory leadership contender William Hague said last night. His most brutal criticism of party failings was reserved for Mr Major's leadership. While

trying to soften the blow by arguing that he was not criticising any individual, he said that his call for a fresh start meant uniting the party behind a clear position - rather than "fudge". "One of the lessons of the past few years," he said, "is that it is easier to mite the party behind a clear position than a con-

stantly shifting fudge." Mr Hague told a meeting of Tory activists that he wanted to be the leadership choice of "the whole party", and that he wanted "to rebuild the Conservative Party to be the driving force in British politics and in world pol-

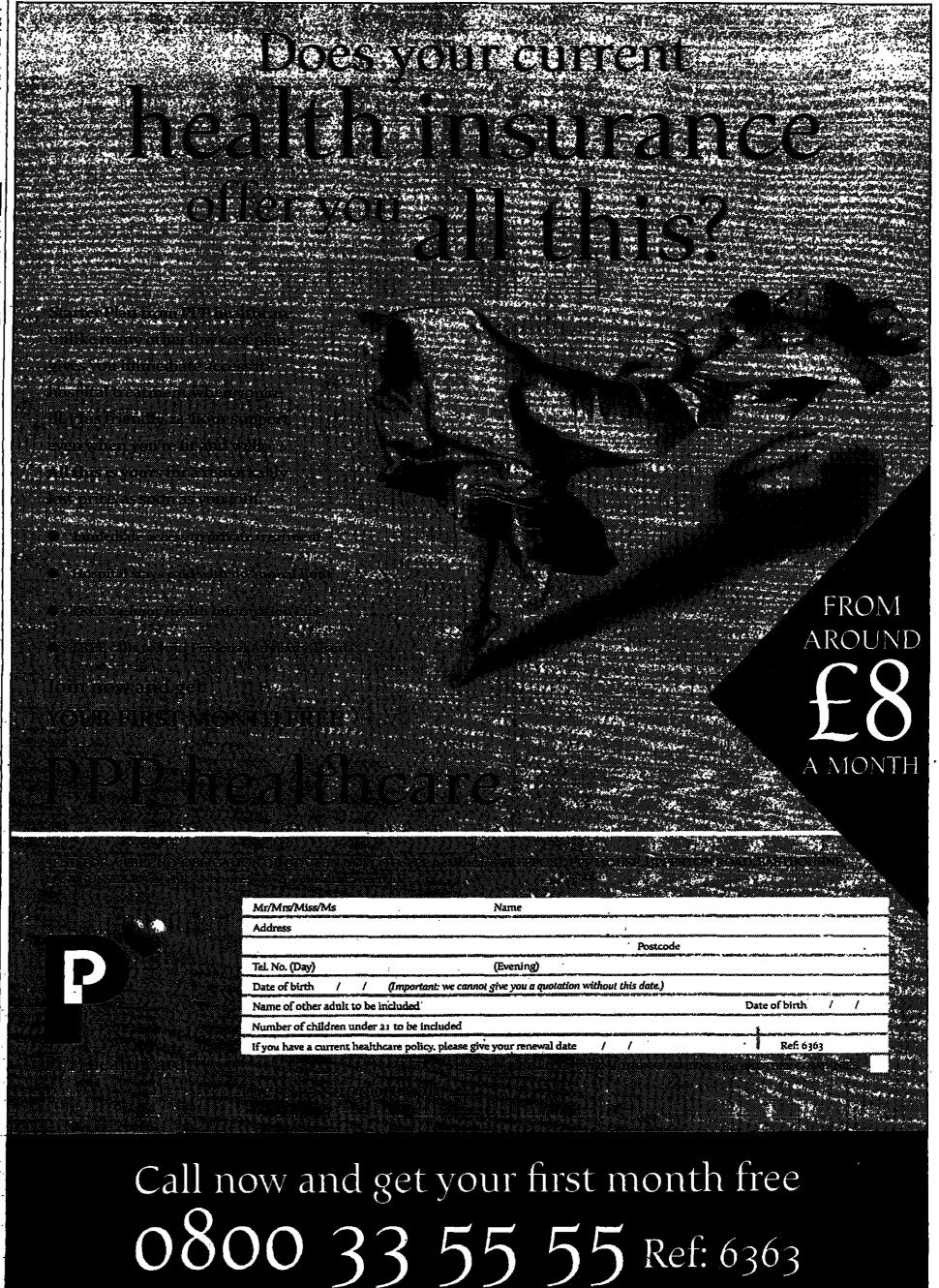
itics at every level once more". But before embarking on the foundations on which the party could be rebuilt, Mr Hague went back over the causes of this month's "humiliating rout".

queathed the best economy since the First World War, and Britain had been changed for the better by 18 years of Conservative gov-ernment, the Tories had failed, he said. "We were voted out of office because we lost the faith, the confidence, the goodwill of to communicate with people ...

"We were voted out for rea society that we had championed became tainted with the image Members of Parliament appeared arrogant and detached from the grassroots of the party. After 18 years in power, our message of freedom was lost."

As for the political principles on which the party had to be rebuilt, Mr Hague said he wanted the Conservative Party to be the party of the environment, on the basis that "private owners are better stewards of the environment than the state".

A decent education was central to Conservatism, he said, and on the issue that still divides his party, "we need to be in Enrope, but not run by Europe."



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# Deep in the urban jungle, something exotic stirs...

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

National Nature Reserves are the jewels in the crown of Britain's wildlife sites. As of yesterday, two of them are now located in the nation's

two biggest cities. The granting of these top habitat accolades to sites in London and Birmingham shows just how important urban greenery has become to beleaguered wildlife.

"Nimby" campaigns saved them from being smothered in houses as the cities expanded earlier this century Now they provide a refuge for declining species as well as refreshing millions of human

National Nature Reserve status brings prestige, stronger protection from any threat of development, and a better chance of attracting public and private sector grants for improvement works. English Nature, the Government agency which

designates the reserves, says the two new urban sites would qualify even if they were in deep countryside, because of their richness of species and habitats and the excellent prospects for preserving them.

But the reserves' proximity to the city also exposes them to fly-tipping and vandalism. Ruislip Woods, on the

north-west fringe of London, was officially declared a National Nature Reserve yesterday. Covering just over a square mile, the woods are home to seven of the 14 bat species found in the British Isles and a recent survey found more than 500 different species of fungi.

Three sides of the woods are bordered by Metroland suburbs – Pinner, Ickenham, Ruislip. Northwood - while the fourth faces the Green Belt. The bulk of the woods had been owned for more than four centuries by King's College, Cambridge but in the 1920s Middlesex County

Council bought them to stop

them being built on. Today the woods, with their green woodpeckers and woodcocks, are owned and managed by the London Borough of Hillingdon under the watchful eye of a Ruislip Woods Trust.

Coppicing has been revived. with the wood sent to make pulp at a paper mill in Gwent. A herd of hardy long horn cat-tle graze Poor's Field, a meadow on the edge of the woods, to prevent scrub invading the grasses and wildflowers:

Sutton Park, four square miles of ancient woodland, heathland, bogs and a golf course on the north-eastern edge of Birmingham, is sur-rounded by built-up land. It was declared a National Nature Reserve on the last day of March.

It was given to the people of Sutton Coldiield by Henry VIII in 1528, and is owned and managed by Birmingham City Council. More than 2 million people visit each year.



At home in the city: Long horn cattle graze a meadow on the edge of Ruislip Woods, in London's north-west suburbs

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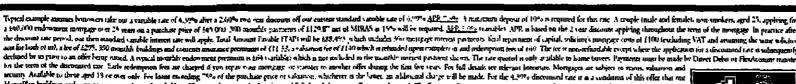
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## Strong medicine for bad doctors

**Jeremy Laurance** Health Editor

New powers to suspend incompetent doctors are to be introduced on 1 July under measures signed by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for

Health, this week. The sanctions, which will be applied by the General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary committee, are intended to weed out well-meaning doctors "doing their inadequate best". They are being introduced three months earlier than planned after arrangements for dealing with the doctors were agreed sooner than expected.

At present the GMC can only take action against doctors who are found guilty of serious professional misconduct - such as seducing a patient - or are too ill to carry on. It cannot take action against doctors who. while trying hard, are simply not

To plug the gap, the NHS Professional Performance Act was introduced in 1995, under which doctors whose competence is questioned can be assessed by the council and made

to re-train if necessary.
On Tuesday, Mr Dobson signed the order implementing the Act from I July and the first doctors are expected to be

assessed in September. The GMC, which has been working on the arrangements for three years, has established 17 specialist groups covering each area of medical practice. who will judge the competence of doctors referred to them. Health authorities or trusts can lodge complaints which will be assessed by a screener before

further action is taken.

council had moved as swiftly as it could to get the new measures in place. "We recognised this was a gap in our powers and the sooner we could get it up and running the better we could discharge our

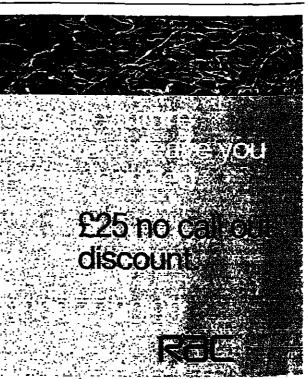
responsibilities to patients. About 150 doctors a year are expected to come before the council with perhaps one-third required to undertake re-training. They may be barred from one area of practice or suspended altogether and must be re-assessed after re-training before being re-admitted to practice. The cost of the training could run into thousands of pounds and must be met by the

The GMC spokesman said: We are saying that NHS trusts and health authorities should act as responsible employers and assist with re-training and it is open to the doctors concerned to seek help from them." The heart of the new mea-

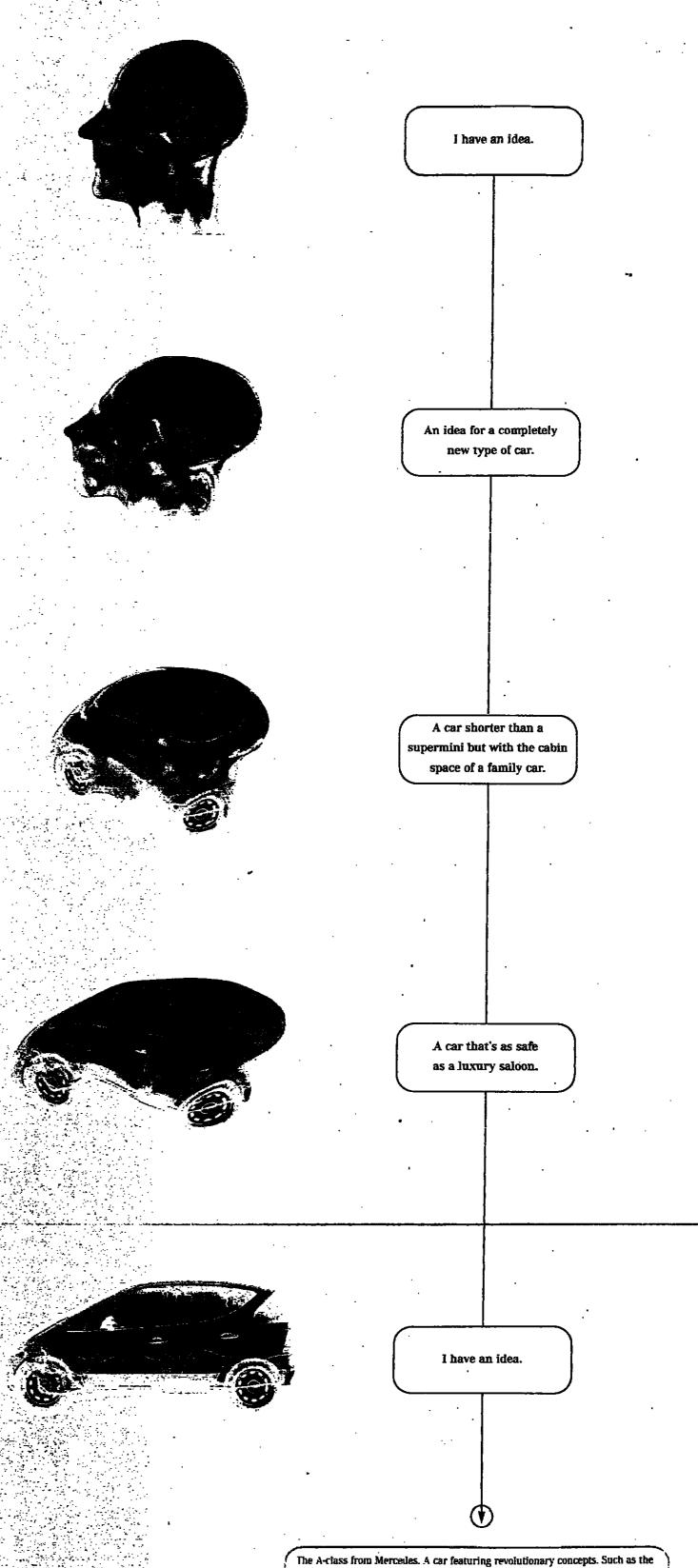
sures is the definition of "serious deficiency of performance" in each of the 17 areas of practice. Lesley Southgate, Professor of Primary Care at University College, London, who developed the assessment methods, says in a briefing paper for the GMC that this provoked the lengthiest debate.

Errors can occur in any doctor's practice and provided they are infrequent do not usually imply serious deficiency, the paper says. "We are seeking to identify a pattern of performance in which errors are more wide ranging and/or serious than would be expected by the peer group," the paper says.

It adds that experience shows that "it is easier to reach consensus on what is unacceptable than choose one correct way of doing things".



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#### news

### Woman deaf since birth wins new deal for disabled

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A woman who has been profoundly deaf since birth has won her campaign for the right to extra benefit which she argued she needed in order to have a social life.

Rebecca Halliday was entitled to higher-rate disability living allowance (DLA) to cover a sign-language interpreter who would help her lead a normal social life, five law lords said vesterday in a key ruling against the Department of Social Security which opens the way for a better deal for deaf, blind and other severely dis-

The test-case decision in favour of the 22-year-old could be of crucial importance to thousands of disabled people after the judges backed their right to have social lives and reject-ed the DSS's argument that social ac-

qualify for the non means-tested benefit under the relevant rules.

Lord Slynn said that a severely disabled person "is not to be confined to doing only the things which totally deaf [or blind] people can do and provided with only such attention as keeps him alive in such a community". What was important was whether the attention was "reason-

ably required" to enable a person so far as possible to live a normal life. Ms Halliday, who works at a school near her home in Newark, Nottinghamshire, will now receive the £33.10 a week higher rate DLA for care during the day, instead of the lower rate of £13.15. She said: "I

am delighted. Now I can move forward and plan for the future." David Thomas, legal officer for the Child Poverty Action Group, which backed the case, said: "This is a great people outside the deaf community."



Victory speech: Rebecca Halliday at home in Fiskerton, Nottingha

victory. It opens the way for severe-ly disabled people to have their real needs for a normal life considered." Tim Sargeant, a spokesman for the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, said: "It's all very well saying deaf people can talk to each other but they want to have full social lives and meet

RNIB's benefits rights team, said the ruling could make "all the difference" to the lives of visually impaired people because the social and leisure needs of claimants would be taken into account in benefit decisions rather than just absolute necessities. The DSS had argued that totally

Laura Jacobs, manager of the blind or deaf people should never be entitled to DLA (or in the case of claimants over 65, attendance allowance), because no amount of help would enable them to see or hear. But the philosophy of government policy and the recent Disability Discrimination Act, which is reflected

people should be helped to live as full lives as possible.

The DSS faces a substantial potential increase in benefit pay-outs after the Halliday ruling but emerged the victor in a parallel test appeal against a refusal of attendance allowance. The judges ruled "relucincontinent arthritic to pay for some one to take away laundry did not call for frequent attention in connection with "bodily functions" as required by the law. Despite losing the appeal. however, the claimant, 71-year-old

Gladys Cockburn, now receives the

higher rate of £33.10 because her

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### **Father loses** fight to halt wife's abortion

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A father has no legal right to prevent his wife from aborting their unborn child, a Scottish judge ruled yesterday in a landmark judgment.

The ruling from Lord Eassie provoked the condemnation of pro-life groups and Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of Scotland's 750,000 Roman Catholics, who recently mounted a campaign, including offers persuade women not have abortions.

 But the decision confirms, as is the case in England and Wales, that a foetus has no legal rights. Nor do fathers or the courts have the power to override the opinions of doctors under the 1967 Abortion Act.

James Kelly, of Inverkeithing, Fife, went to the Court of Session in Edinburgh to stop his estranged wife Lynne, a 21-year-old singer, from having an abortion and to seek custody of the baby and the couple's daughter.

Mr Kelly launched an immediate appeal, but Lord Eassie said it was clear that the law intended doctors to make the decision. Quoting from an earlier case, he said: "The great social responsibility is plainly placed by the law on the shoulders of the medical profession.

Abortion Act only required two doctors to form an opinion in good faith on the grounds for an abortion. The court's only role would be to investigate a doctor's good faith where doubt was cast upon it. But such a question had not arisen in this case.

In a 1987, an Oxford student failed in a High Court bid to stop his girlfriend, a fellow student, having an abortion, on the ground that a foetus has no le-

tion of Unborn Children said yesterday's ruling was a "travesty of justice".

John Smeaton, the organisation's national director, said: "Above all, the right which the law should uphold is the unborn

baby's right to life." Cardinal Winning said: "It is a sad day indeed. There is surely an extraordinary anomaly in the law when a father can be pursued by the Child Support Agency for maintenance of a child but has no say in protect-

ing the child's life in the womb." Cardinal Winning added that the case showed the inadequacy of the law in failing to safeguard any rights of the unborn child. "We have arrived at abortion on demand," he said. "Once again, it highlights the need for a complete review of the Abortion Act."

#### DAILY POEM

Scape

By Conleth O'Connor

overhead, the moon dodged passing

disturbing illicit copulation. (natural law is an illusion) windows on office blocks shuddered as their nakedness was penetrated. brass plates twittered condescendingly at their neon neighbours.

somewhere far off, a mad motorist ferreted through country roads escaping the clutching ditches.

back in the city, footpaths sneaked through halldoors, ran silently outback and collided in the distance at things we foolishly call mountains.

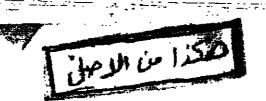
Conleth O'Connor, who was born in Co Wexford, wrote about the Dublin suburbia where he lived, and died in 1993. He published four collections of poetry. Nights Without Stars, Days Without Sun is a selection from these, with some previously unpublished poems. It is published by Arc Publications (£5.95) and is available from Arc at Nanholme Mill, Shaw Wood Road, Todmorden, Lancashire OL14 6DA

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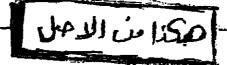
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### Doubts surface over life on Mars

Charles Arthur Science Editor

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Life on Mars? The question mark is getting bigger. A study by American scientists has cast fresh doubts on the announcement last August by the US space agency Nasa that it had found fossils of living cells in a meteorite from Mars.

A team at the University of Hawaii, led by Edward Scott, said their analysis indicated that carbonates in the rock taken as key evidence of life were formed as part of a highimpact shock, and not long-term processes conducive to life.

The research, published today in the science journal Na-ture, adds weight to those opposing the Nasa conclusion. While the original paper - published in Science magazine in the US - sparked enormous public excitement, the research papers that have since cast doubt on it have followed have received

comparatively little attention. Last August, a multi-disciplinary team led by Nasa announced that tiny holes in a 16-million-year-old piece of meteorite known as ALH 84001 might be the remains of ancient

Since then, the meteorite has been examined by teams of clouds, no dust.

•

Those who say it could harbour fossils cite evidence that the carbonates inside the rock formed at moderate temperatures over

long periods of time. The idea is that mineral-rich water percolated through tiny cracks in the rock, creating an environment in which bacteria

could grow.
But others say it looks like the carbonate molecules formed in a hot flash - like that caused by a meteorite impact - which would make it less likely that living bacteria were once in there. Scott's group backed the "hot

"We find that carbonate, plagioclase and silica were melied and partly redistributed by the same shock event responsible for the intense local crushing of pyroxene in the meteorite, they write.

Nasa is planning missions to Mars to scoop up and analyse rock and soil to see if any similar traces can be found.

■ The weather forecast for Nasa's Pathfinder probe, due to arrive on Mars on 4 July, is: Changeable. Pink skies, no clouds, temperatures rising to minus 40C. Planetwide dust storms. Later, clear blue skies. colder, minus 87C, brilliant ice



Supermodel: The winning picture in the British Birds magazine bird photograph of the year award of a cattle egret stretching its wings in Oman

Photograph: Jens Eriksen

# Female scientists get raw deal

a better system."

and an immunologist, at Gote-

borg University - had to go to

**Charles Arthur** Science Editor

Female scientists get a raw deal from the "peer-review" system, used in almost every country to determine who gets funding and and jobs, according to a sur-prising study from Sweden.

According to researchers at Goteborg University - who had to go to court to get access to the confidential data from which they drew their conclusions – a woman researcher has to be 2.5 times more productive than a man in order to impress

ly. Furthermore, nepotism is rife: if an applicant, whether male or female, is known by the interview panel to have worked with a colleague, then that makes them more likely to win

funding. The work, published today in Nature, is the first time that the deliberations of the interview panels who decide on professional advancement for scientists has been objectively studied.

It also casts a cloud over the reneated efforts of schools, universities and government to has recently completed a PhD

into science, since it shows that prejudice is deep-rooted.

The peer review system used Sweden, like that in the Britain and the US, presently determines who gets funding for

"I found the results very surprising," said Philip Campbell, editor of Nature. "The only way I can see it changing, apart from raising awareness, is to conduct peer reviews where

the gender is concealed." One female scientist who

encourage more women to go at a British university - but access to the confidential inwished to remain anonymous terview scores. confirmed the findings of the According to the researchers,

paper. "It's a lottery," she said.
"If you're in a group putting for-Christine Wennerds and Agnes Wold, "peer reviewers gave ward a grant proposal, then it's women applicants lower scores crucial who you nominate to than male applicants who disesent it to the panel ... the played lower levels of productrouble is, nobody can think of tivity. In fact, the most productive group of female ap-To produce the paper, the plicants ... was the only group Swedish researchers - two of women judged to be as comwomen, one a microbiologist petent as men, although only as

competent as the least productive group of male applicants." court and apply under Sweden's No obvious explanation exists Freedom of the Press Act for for the evident bias, though

have shown that both men and women rate work done by a man more highly than that of a woman if they know the sex of the worker - but not if the

gender is obscured. The researchers also point out a further reason for gloomy prospects for women scientists worldwide: their study only looked at the peer review system in one research council in Sweden - the country recently named by the United Nations as the best in the world for equal

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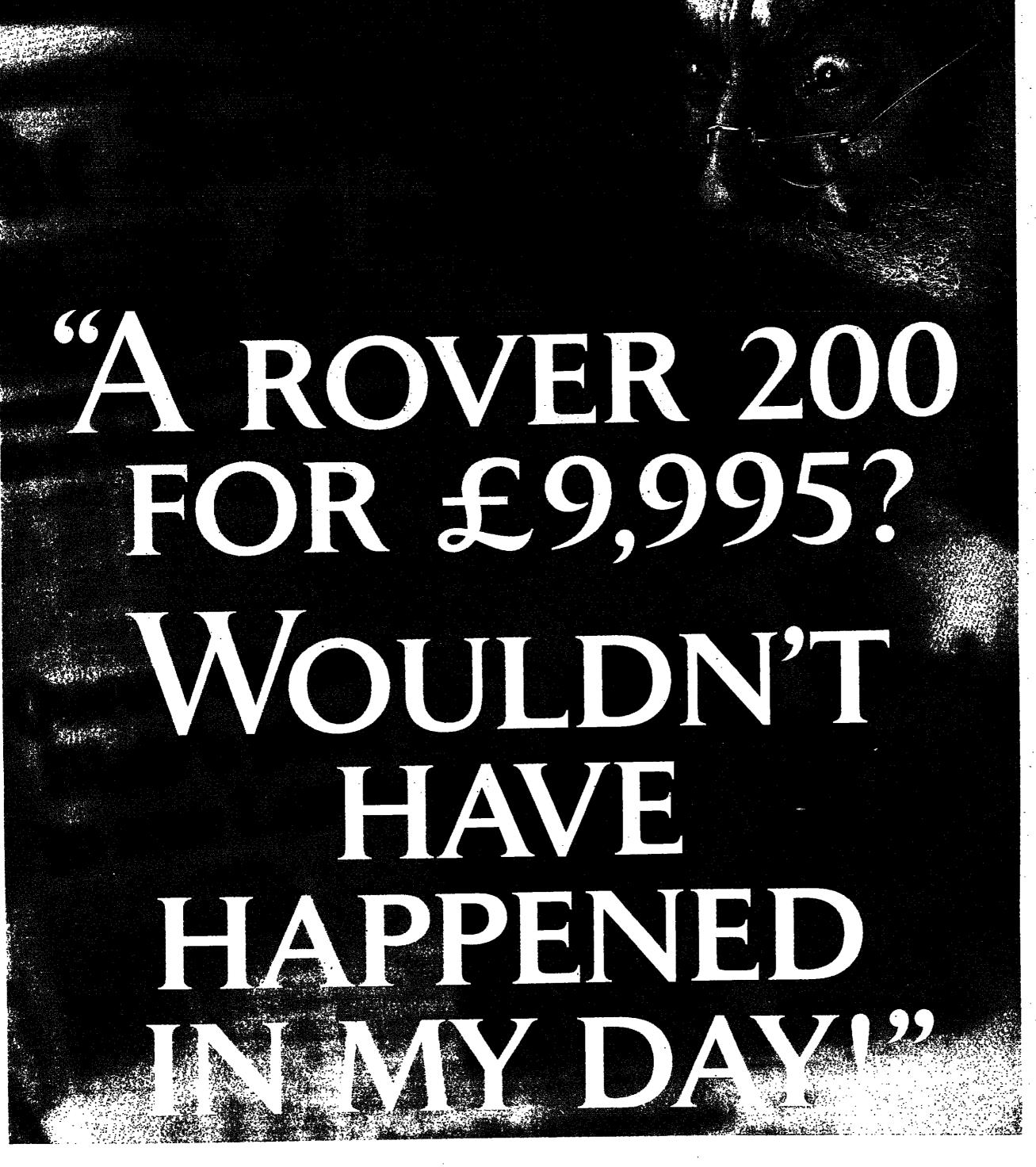
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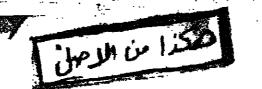
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### In 1990s Britain a Pakistani with a degree has as much chance of a job as an uneducated white man

Ethnic minority students, especially those of Asian origin, are outperforming their white counterparts - but still are struggling to translate this success into their employment prospects, says a major study by the Policy Studies Institute.

Ethnic Minorities in Britain, the fourth in a series of reports which have charted the experience of migrants and their families since the 1960s, found that among people of working age, Chinese, African Asians and Indians tend to be more qualified than whites, following a significant push for educational status among second-generation

But this does not necessariy guarantee them a better job. The study found that a completely unqualified white man has the same job prospects as a degree-educated Pakistani or Bangladeshi. Minorities are still seriously under-represented in top jobs, suggesting the exis-

tence of a "glass ceiling". "Many black and Asian people are in worse jobs than white people despite having similar qualifications, and the education system is failing young black men and Pakistani men and women, who continue to be disproportionately without qualifications," it concluded.

The report shows that there are wide differences in the experiences of minorities, especially in the area of income. The report found that more than 80 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis live in households with incomes below half the national average, making them the poorest group in Britain.

By contrast African Asians and Chinese are more likely than whites to earn more than £500 per week and have low unemployment rates.

Tariq Modood, the main author of the report, said that diversity among minority groups was now just as important as the "black-white divide". "People who are not white in Britain are become relatively prosperous



Unequal opportunities: Despite high educational achievement, many blacks and Asians end up unemployed or in poorly-paid jobs Photograph: Tom Pilston

Joblessness - how the races compare

Rate of unemployment (%), by highest British qualification

often conceived of as sharing similar circumstances. This study shows that the differences are just as important, and not confined to aspects of private culture ... ethnic difference should not be equated with disadvantage," he said.

The report found differences in the economic performances of the sexes within many minorities, Indian and Caribbean women, for example, suffer above average levels of unemployment. But those in work tend to have good jobs. In fact. their average earnings tend to be higher than those of white women, a fact ascribed to the high proportion working in public services such as the NHS.

"That some minorities have

should not be an excuse for ignoring the racial disadvantage faced by other groups," said Richard Berthoud, one of the authors. "The diversity in experience means that policy will have to be more complex. You can't simply have another race

Figures in brackets denote women, while those with an asterisk denote small sample sizes

One significant development partner, said the report, which was the conclusion that mixed cost £1m to produce. relationships are clearly on the Four out of every five "Caribbean" children have one

Of those born in Britain, white parent, while half of half of Caribbean men, one-Caribbean families with children third of Caribbean women and are headed by a single parent. 20 per cent of Indian and Racial harassment contin-African men now have a white ued unabated, including insults

and abuse at the hands of strangers, neighbours, work-mates and police. Twelve per cent of those interviewed said they had been racially abused or threatened in the past year, and a quarter said that they worried about the possibility of attack. Black and Asian people were more likely now than 10 years

ago to believe they had been un-fairly treated by employers. The survey of 5,196 people of Caribbean and Asian origin, together with 2,867 white people to provide a comparison, was the largest ever survey of ethnic minorities in Britain. □Ethnic Minorities in Britain: diversity and disadvantage; Tariq Modood, Richard Berthoud, et al; BEBC Distribution - 01202 715 555; £17.50

### RAF's order to go – 4,300 miles

Louise Jury

When RAF Flight Sergeant Dave Powell decided to send out for a curry for his Nato friends on exercise in frozen Canada, he wanted only the best.

And the best, he had decided on his honeymoon last month was Tandoori Night in St Helier, Jersey.
Restaurateur Sultan Al-Mahmood left the Channel Islands

two days ago with enough chick-en tikka masala, madras and vindaloo for 75, to fly 4,300 miles to Canada. Flt Sgt Powell was confident

that the most elaborate curry-takeaway service yet arranged will go a long way in the cause of international co-operation. He and his air force colleagues sat down with Nato allies from New Zealand, Holland and the United States for the

feast last night. "I thought it would be a fantastic idea to have an Indian takeaway so they could get a taste of a real English delight," he said, with due deference to

Britain's multi-cultural society. Flt Sgt Powell is a member of No 8 squadron, normally based at RAF Waddington, Lincoln. They flew out to Cold Lake airbase near Edmonton 10 days ago for their fortnight stint with exercise Maple Flag.

A traditional part of pro-

ceedings is to offer a little hospitality at the end of exercises. But a locally produced buffet is

"This is very unusual," Flt Sgt Powell said. "But it's very important that we all co-operate logether. It's camaraderie."

Mr Al-Mahmood arrived at the airbase yesterday. He took over a mess to prepare the dishes, many of which were frozen for transportation.

As for the bill, Flt Sgt Powell

said the British taxpayer should not worry. "The RAF won't be partaking in any costs. The financial arrangements have been made privately between Mr Al-Mahmood and myself."

Flt Sgt Powell will be having the chicken vindaloo. "Most of the RAF like hot spicy food," Mr Al-Mahmood said



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# Chirac refuses key's to let sleeping Euro dogs lie

Paris

The French parliamentary elections are supposed to be all about Europe. But Europe is a dog which has stubbornly refused to bark during the cam-

paign.
In the past couple of days,
President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppé have gone out of their way to try to wake the ungrateful beast. They have warned that a victo-ry for the left, in the two rounds of voting over the next two Sundays, will leave France with a weak and muddled position in the European Union, especially on the single currency.

campaign, made his comments, flanked by French and European flags, during a visit by Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. France would only be able to defend its European interests if it "spoke with one voice" he said, not with a right-wing President (himself) and a left-of-centre parliamentary majority and government. Mr Juppé followed up with a

prediction that a victory by the French left would plunge the EU into an "economic and financial crisis". The Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin, has said that, as prime minister, he would try to soften some of the budgetary and economic conditions for the single currency, as now rigorously nterpreted by the Germans, French and others.

Judging by the lack of interest in EU issues around the country, the belated warnings suggest a certain anxiety, even desperation, in the government camp. Although the last pub-lishable polls forecast that the present centre-right coalition will win narrowly in the second round on 1 June, the advantage is fragile and based on uncer-

President Chirac's decision to call the election nine months early was intended to be a smashand-grab raid which gave the government, led by his Gaullist party, a relatively easy victory. It may still turn out to have been an inspired gamble but, three days before the first round, the governing camp is clearly edgy.

Le Monde yesterday reported a private conversation in which the education minister, François Bayrou, leader of Force De-

oretically uninvolved in the said: For the last three days, I've campaign. I don't know why, but I have a bad feeling."

Five weeks ago President Chirac gave Europe, and the need to take difficult decisions on the single currency, as one of his principal reasons for calling an early poll. With public opinion in France broadly pro-Emu, the President hoped the coming European challenges would help to marshal a ma-jority behind the existing, un-

popular government. In reality, neither Mr Juppé, nor Mr Jospin, has been confident enough of his European ground to make European monetary union (Emu) a central part of his campaign. The voters, if interested in the election at all, have focused on purely national issues, such as unemployment, and the government's state-dismantling reforms, without making the connections with European policy. Only the political extremes
- the National Front on the right and the Communists on the left - have made Emu, and their virulent opposition to it, an important part of their platforms.

Even the belated interventions by President Chirac and Mr Juppé seemed unlikely to start a European debate as such. Mr Jospin chose to see their remarks as an attack on his ability, if he wins, to operate in "co-habitation" with President Chirac. He said France had voice on EU affairs during previous "co-habitations" in 1986-88 and 1993-95 between a Socialist president and a centreright government. It would do mocrate, one of the centrist so again, with the political

### significant shorts

#### Karadzic 'may surrender to war-crimes tribunal'

Radovan Karadzic, Bosnia's most wanted war-crimes suspect. is considering surrendering to an international tribunal with documents compromising Serbia's president, a news report said. There was no confirmation of the paper, which quoted sources it did not identify. But it said Mr Karadzic, Bosnian Serb political leader during more than three years of war, already had handed documentation to unidentified countries and possibly to the tribunal in The Hague. It said the documents included details on who gave orders to Bosnian Serb forces during the 1992-1995 war, and compromised the Serbian AP - Belgrade President, Slobodan Milosevic.

#### Bomb trial gets emotional

Oklahoma City bombing prosecutors aimed for an emotional end to their case, with a survivor recalling how a routine meeting was shattered when "the whole building started to blow up." After a case that has seen 136 witnesses in 19 days, prosecutors sought to leave jurors with a big emotional punch, never letting them forget the 168 people who died in the 19 April, 1995 blast. Timothy McVeigh, a Gulf war veteran, could get the death penalty if convicted of murder and conspiracy in the blast, the deadliest act of terrorism on US soil. AP - Denver

#### Sino-British body's last gasp

The Sino-British body overseeing Hong Kong's reversion to China will meet once more before the handover. The Joint Liaison Group, which worked out many of the details leading up to the colony's return to China at midnight of 30 June, will meet on Thursday and Friday of next week in Hong Kong, the government said. Reuters -- Hong Kong

#### **Denmark's Schengen threat**

Denmark's Justice Ministry says it may have to drop out of the European Union's visa-free travel zone, the Schengen agreement. The possibility stems from the introduction this week of a proposal for an EU agreement including closer police co-operation among the 15 member-nations and common immigration policy. Denmark will try to negotiate opt-outs from the new proposal. But the Justice Ministry says that if Denmark maintains those exceptions, the country could be forced to leave the 1985 Schengen treaty.

#### Billet-doux for all to read

Eight months after being thrown out of Monaco's royal palace for cheating on his wife, a talkative and repentant Daniel Ducruet has written a love letter to his beloved Princess Stephanie. The trouble is, the rest of the world can read it too. In "Letter to Stephanie," published in Paris this week by Editions No 1, Mr Ducruet, Stephanie's former bodyguard and the father of their two children. speaks of their clandestine affair, their marriage and its unhappy ending. Excerpts were published in Paris-Maich magazine this week.

#### **Moscow kowtows to Chechens**

Russian officials apologised to Chechen leaders a day after Russian jets intercepted and grounded a plane carrying a Chechen delegation to The Hague. The plane left the Chechen capital, Grozny, again yesterday and was allowed to fly to the Netherlands.

AP - Moscow

#### Prostitutes solicit the public

Prostitutes in Antwerp hold an open day on Saturday to break down barriers with the public and prove the redlight district is safe, the organisers said. "We want to show what's really going on here, that it's not a crime-ridden area," said a spokesman. Reuters - Brussels

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# efuse Turkey's ruling Islamist party faces ban coss, but has hed less hick with unnity colleagues. Mr Sorver's ruling Cilk, a Welfare to Ballaigue Arlson

party.
The Welfare Party and its Islamist leader, Necmettin Erbakan, have never got on with Turkey's secular-minded lawyers. Yesterday, Vural Savas, the chief prosecutor investigating the party, formally opened a case in the Constitutional Court, arguing that the Welfare Party endangers the basic tenets of the secularist Turkish state. If it is successful, Welfare will be closed down.
The Constitutional Court has

rarely shrunk from banning parties it considers a threat to Turkey's unitary, secular identity. Pro-Kurdish and leftist parties are traditional favourites, although another Islamist party led by Mr Erbakan was shut down in the early 1970s. This is the first time, however, that the court has been asked to train its sights on a party in power.

Mr Savas, the party stands lit-tie chance of survival, "Welfare is dragging the country towards civil war," was the conclusion of the report written by the chief prosecutor. The court's deliberations will rely in large measure on this dossier.

Mr Savas yesterday listed 18 examples of what he called Welfare's violations of the constitution. Some of these confirm inflammatory statements made by Mr Erbakan himself, while the embattled Prime Minister was a rabble-rousing opposition leader. Since then, Mr Erbakan If the court sympathises with has curbed his own rhetorical

flow. It will be worse than Algeria. I want blood to flow."

Banning the Welfare Party, might, paradoxically be the best way to ensure that blood does indeed flow. Mr Erbakan evidently agrees. Yesterday, he declared, "secularism has no better guarantor than Welfare". Other Turks argue that the

party provides a safety valve for

hard-line Islamists who would

otherwise favour armed struggle. Without this valve, so the theory goes, the extremists will conclude - with some justification - that Turkish democracy is deficient, and take up arms. Perhaps more important are the political pressures to which the Constitutional Court - as guarantor of a judicial system rarely considered impartial - will

be subjected. When the court an-

nounces its decision in a few

months, it will do so with the authority of Turkey's establishment.



tary: Deputies brawl as Turkey's opposition leader Mesut Yilmaz this week accused the government of being unable to rule Photograph; AFP

### Junta clamp on Suu Kyis supporters

Rangoon - Burma's military regime, slapping down a fresh challenge from the pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, rounded up scores of her supporters to stop her holding a

The arrests were the junta's latest attempt to box in Ms Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, since curtailing her political activities and freedom of movement last year. The congress of her Nation-

al League for Democracy (NLD) was called to mark the seventh anniversary next week of the election in which her supporters won 82 per cent of the vote. The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slore) refused to relinquish power and parliament never convened.

dzic 'may surrender

ar-crimes tribunal

Amnesty International described 1996 as "the worst year for human rights since the govseems determined to eliminate the party altogether."

Arrests took place in Mandalay, Sagaing and Irrawaddy divisions and Mon State, all farflung provinces. Some 200 members of the parliament- ma since 1962. Ms Suu Kyi, elect and 100 party organisers were invited to the meeting from around the country. Kyi Maung, NLD vice-chairman, said several members were taking refuge in Ms Sau Kyi's

lakeside compound in hopes of avoiding arrest.

The sweep came to light on the day US sanctions banning new investment in Burma wen into effect in protest at the military's increased repression. The two events did not appear connected.

Amnesty International urged the Association of South-East Asian Nations to press Burma to improve its rights record. Asean refuses, calling Burma's politics an internal affair. At a meeting next week in Malaysia. Asean is expected to clear the way for Burma to be made a

Roads have been blocked to Ms Suu Kyi's home for months ending her popular railies that attracted as many as 10,000 people. She is not allowed to speak in public and has at times been prevented from leaving her

Although diplomats and supporters are occasionally allowed tions," and said: "Now the Slore restrictions on her movements and contacts as virtual house arrest. In November her motorcade was attacked by a government-paid mob wielding sticks, chains and crowbars.

The military has ruled Burdaughter of the independence hero Aung San, was thrust into prominence by the 1988 uprising against military rule that was crushed when troops killed thousands of protesters.

# IF MONEY TALKS. THE VOLVO S40 SPEAKS PERFECT SENSE.



### Bidders push Harriman sale beyond estimates

The vaunted auction of the estate of Pamela Harriman, the former diplomat, friend of presidents and daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill, was on target last night to raise a final multi-million-dollar tally far in excess of pre-sale estimates. The auction, held at Sotheby's in New York, ended last night. By the start of yesterday, the

collection left by Ms Harriman, who died in February while United States ambassador in France, had already attracted almost \$7m (£4.2m). The identity of most buyers was kept secret, but among them was the

actress, Whoopi Goldberg.
One of the interesting things about the collection is [Harriman] was really a citizen of three countries," said Sotheby's spokesman Matthew Weigman. "She was born in England, she lived in France for a long time and she became an American."

The main beneficiaries of the sale, which included many items from her Washington townhouse, will be her son, Winston Churchill, as well as his estranged wife, Minnie Churchill, who attended some of the

Among items that sold for much greater sums than expected was a four-poster bed. Valued by Sotheby's at \$12,000 to \$15,000, it was bought on Tuesday for \$41,000. A copy of John/F Kennedy's nuclear test



Picasso print for \$4,600

ban treaty, estimated at \$5,000 to \$7,000, was sold to an unidentified European foundation for \$46,000.

While the sale has seemed a tame sequel to the Jacqueline Onassis auction of last year, also held at Sotheby's, any sense of anti-climax has been offset by the handsome bids.

"When things go for 10 times or 15 times their bid, there is def-initely an aura," said Diana Brooks, Sotheby's chief executive.

One happy bidder was a Chicago hairdresser, David Bradely, who had tried but failed to get into the packed Kennedy Onassis sale last year. He paid \$1,995 for seven silver pieces owned by Harriman.
"She is a piece of history," he said. "This is second best. She

had a bunch of great stuff". Ms Goldberg was reported to have bought a Picasso print, La Danse, for \$4,600.

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On top of this, there's a free \$700 styling pack consisting of alloy wheels, front fog lights and a leather steering wheel.

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### Nazis, child abusers, or just good, clean-living workers?

Police move in on Chile's secretive and controversial 'Dignity Colony'

Phil Davison Colonia Dignidad, Chile

Some call him "the professor" for his knowledge and oratory. Others call him "the doctor" for his surgery in the local hospital and wartime experience as a medical orderly in Hitler's army. The German orphans he raised in Chile are encouraged to call him "our eternal uncle" to emphasise their lack of parents.

Whatever they call him, Paul Schaefer is now an old man on the run widely suspected of being a serial child abuser and active Nazi sympathiser. He is accused of heading a "state within a state" at the sinister "Colonia Dignidad" and what was once a horrific rent-a-torture chamber on this ranch in southern Chile.

Following years of outrage among Chileans, notably as the country began to flirt with democracy, police moved into Dignity Colony on Tuesday as snow fell on the pines and peaks east of the main gate. The carabineros gave the impression they were searching for Mr Schaefer as well as for illegal arms reputedly stockpiled.

After several days of tension this week, many Chileans fear that the ranch lands, in the fertile foothills of the Andes, 220 miles south of Santiago, could become "Chile's Waco", a reference to the bloody attack by United States federal agents on the Davidian sect in Waco, Texas in 1993. Apart from child abuse and kidnapping - al-legedly including the snatching of children from Germany - the ranch's 300 or so German res-

idents have also been accused

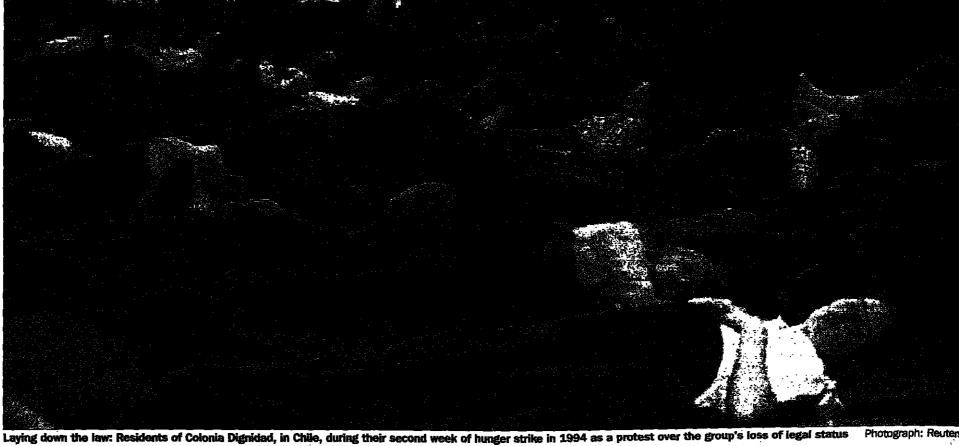
of trafficking in arms. They deny all such charges as "lies, fantasies and communist pro-paganda", specifically blaming Chilean and German socialist politicians, and say they are just hard-working folk.

Perhaps embarrassed by its long-time name of Colonia Dignidad, the 35,000-acre ranch's 300 or so German residents now refer to it as Villa Baviera, in Spanish, or Bavariaville. Not only does the landscape resemble Bavaria, but the German

colonists do not hide their affinity with Bavaria's conservative Christian Social Union Party. Human rights groups and those who fled the "colony"

have spoken of a concentrationcamp regime, with dogs trained to attack the genitals of intruders, and vigilante groups to keep outsiders away. Young defectors have accused Mr Schaefer and other group leaders of giving them mind-numbing drugs to prevent them from rebelling, leaving or telling their

Adding to the continuing



allegations of child abuse, witnesses are increasingly coming forward to describe collaboration between the colony and General Augusto Pinochet's military regime of the Seventies and Eighties.

At that time, opponents of General Pinochet were taken to

the remote area and dumped into underground torture chambers for electric shock treatment to Wagner or Mozart, according to accounts from eyewitnesses, including repentant Pinochet agents. German-speaking doctors reportedly administered drugs to torture victims.

The governments of Chile and Germany call Mr Schaefer their most-wanted man. They say he is wanted in both countries for multiple child abuse, child kidnapping and sodomy. His Colonia Dignidad, they say, is a den of iniquity whose mostly German residents are forced to work for no pay and whose children are forced into homosexual sex. Mr Schaefer was a medical or-

derly in Hitler's army, became pastor of his own Lutheran sect in the Bonn area in the Fifties and fled on bail in 1961 after being charged with sexually abusing children at a youth home. The Chilean police could hardly have used a more softlysoftly approach when they en-tered the ranch on Tuesday. describing their incursion as "a

visual inspection". Liberal

Chileans were embarrassed and



The "colony" increasingly 'sightseeing tour" made a mockery of Chile's would-be democlooms as a new threat to Chile's racy and showed that the still-sensitive democracy, with German colony was in cahoots the government of Eduardo with at least the military branch Frei and his civilian police pitof the police. They noted that the ted against the traditional milcarabineros' commander, Julio itary establishment headed by Poo. had greeted a German General Pinochet. Former Chilean intelligence leader of the colony by his first name at the colony's barbed wire agents and their victims have atfence. "The police made this tested that the German colony look like a courtesy visit, not a raid," said Jaime Naranjo, a sowas used by the general's military regime, after the 1973 coup cialist MP. "This is just like Colombia, where the drug trafthat overthrew and killed the

fickers have a network of support and protection. They have two

airstrips on this colony, for

German and administered drugs to study their effects on torture victims. General Pinochet himself was said to be a good friend of Mr Schaefer. The colony's German farm-

ers and Chilean supporters insist Mr Schaefer is simply a hard working German immigrant and devout Protestant who sees nothing wrong with people working the land 14 hours a day, seven days a week, with no recompense other than the land's Marxist president Salvador Alyields. He went underground lende, to torture, kill and exbecause he fears a witch-hunt periment on leftists. Some later identified Mr Schaefer as "the against him, they say. A rare glimpse this week in-

Reaching the colony requires a rough 45-minute drive over a pot-holed gravel path east of Par-

and black stockings.

side the perimeter of the colony

showed women working, dressed Quaker like in calf-length frocks

ral. While many of the 20,000 townsfolk of Parral criticised "Los Alemanes" (the Germans), those farmers nearest to the colony are protective of them because of vital mutual trade, and their own free use of the colony's hospital and school.

Critics say the hospital and school are simply a charitable front to shield something more sinister. Some believe it is child abuse, others arms trafficking, but no one comes up with any more proof than has emerged from colony defectors. Some Chileans say Mr Schae-

fer is an illusory figurehead. They believe he and his followers may have been placed as a diversion to attract attention from what may have been a long untouchable refuge for former Nazis or Nazi sympathisers.

"I first visited them in the Sixties. My first surprise was the air strip, then the walkie-talkies every 100 yards," said Osvaldo Murai, of the Chilean magazine Ercilla. "I thought what are they trying to hide?".

Later, it occurred to me that the Israelis were hunting all sorts of ex-Nazis throughout South America and what a good place to hide this would be." Figurehead or no, Mr schae-

Chile that he has controlled for three and a half decades. Mr Schaefer and a handful of friends set up Dignity Colony in 1961 after he fled the child

abuse charges in Germany. Five years later, the first reports of abuse began to emerge after a teenage orphan, Wolfgang Mueller, fled the colony. Last night. Mr Mueller, now

fer is on the loose. Most likely,

in this huge area of southern

in his forties, repeated his allegations to reporters and expressed astonishment that the Chilean authorities had still taken little or no action. "I think it's a real scandal," he said, "I remember the first night I arrived. Mr Schaefer abused me. I was just 12 years old but I had to stay all night in his bed.".

Also 12 years old when he arrived here with Mr Schaefer was Herr X, a German who reluctantly spoke to me. "I was one" of the first half dozen to come here in '61,' he told me in strongly accented Spanish. "He practically educated me. We grow wheat here, and corn ... we do mechanical work. We're selfsufficient. The criticisms of our lifestyle are pure fantasies, spread by German politicians."

"I can honestly say I've never seen people who respect life more than the inhabitants of this colony," added Jaime Mora, a local engineer, and a member of the so-called Circle of Friends who support the Germans. "They love life."

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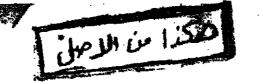


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## Palestinian gagged by 'thought police'

Palestinian police yesterday de-tained a prominent Palestinian journalist in an apparent effort to prevent the live broadcast of the proceedings of the Palestinian parliament. The arrest of Daoud Kuttab is the latest move by the security forces of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to bring the Palestinian media under his total control. Earlier Mr Arafat's Pales-

tinian Authority, which rules the Palestinian enclaves, had jammed Mr Kuttab's television station, whose transmissions are the only way the Palestinian public can find out what goes on in the Palestinian Legislative Council, which they elected last year. The police are apparently eager to prevent the broadcast of allegations of corruption and brutality in the Palestinian leadership.

Mr Kuttab, an American-Palestinian who lives in Jerusalem, was detained after he was called to the police station in Ramallah, an autonomous Palestinian enclave.

His brother Jonathan said: "He got a call at 11pm last night to go to see Captain Faris of the criminal police to talk about the broadcasting of the Legislative Council. He phoned me from the police station in Ramallah at 2.30am to say he had been de-

Arafat's men keep lid on claims of corruption and brutality, writes Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem

deeply sensitive to attacks by broadcast them live. To his asmembers of the Palestinian parliament over its conduct of peace talks with Israel, reliance on 11 different security forces and use of torture. Such criticism is never mentioned by the official Palestinian press, radio or television, which always laud Mr Arafat and his lieutenants.

In order to publicise their proceedings, the Legislative Council several months ago gave Mr Daoud's Al-Quds Education Channel the right to



ples implemented in the Palestinian Authority territories?"
Not only did Mr Salameh's tonishment he found that he was being jammed. Nabil Amr, the head of the Palestinian article not see the light of day, Broadcasting Company (PBC), the official Palestinian TV, debut a lawyer on the journal Kidreh, the Palestinian attorney nied that his facilities were being used for the jamming. But the reality proved to be differthor's arrest, citing security reasons, and Mr Salameh disent. When Mr Kuttab visited the PBC, he found the control room guarded by policemen, and technicians inside involved appeared into prison for ten

the way the Israeli police, in-vestigating a political corruption scandal, had vigorously ques-tioned Benjamin Netanyahu,

the Israeli Prime Minister, and

his justice minister. He asked:

passed it on to Khalid al-

eneral. Mr al-Kidreb prompt-

signed an order for the au-

Bassam Eid of the Palestin-

ian Human Rights Monitoring

Group says that among Pales-

tinians freedom of expression

has become very limited. He re-

peats a sour little joke he heard

in Gaza: "A man in Gaza has a

toothache. He complains to his

friends about it. His friends ask:

"Why don't you go to the den-tist." He replies: "What is the

point of going to the dentist when I'm forbidden to open my

When will we see such exam-

in jamming his station.

When Mr Arafat took control of Gaza and Jericho in 1994, many Palestinian journalists hoped that at last they could have their own media, free from Israeli control. But systematic intimidation by Mr Arafat's security forces has ensured it is becoming as compliant and uncritical as anything in Damascus or Baghdad.

Intimidation sometimes starts even before an article is even published, as Jibril Salameh, a lawyer in Gaza, discovered last month when he submitted a piece he had written to a local law journal. He daringly suggested that there was a lesson for Palestinians in Writing on the wall as Iranians go to the polls



backing from key clerical groups in his quest to become president in tomorrow's elections

### Israel looks to control West Bank water rights

The war for the control of land on the West Bank and Gaza escalated yesterday with an Israeli proposal to deny Palestinians the right to drill for water and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, confirming that Palestinian land dealers who sell to Israelis will face the death penalty, writes Patrick

Ariel Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister and an opponent of Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, is proposing that Israel declare its sovereignty over as much as 50 per cent of the water resources on the West Bank. A likely effect of the proposal is that Israel would pull back from a smaller proportion of the

West Bank than is demanded by

Mr Arafat, in an interview with the daily Xediot Aharanot, said yesterday that Palestinian land agents who sell to Israelis were "a few traitors and we will apply what has been determined law against them". He said that a Palestinian living in the West Bank towns of Hebron or Nablus, could not buy land in Israel. Two Palestinian land dealers have been killed this month and a third has disappeared.

Controversy is still continuing over the United States government claim, leaked to the Israeli press, that 26 per cent of the houses in Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in

Gaza are empty, and the ex-pansion of settlements is there-

time in as many weeks that the US has punished Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. Earlier in the month an official in Washington leaked information about an Israeli spy in the US administration. The US is also marginally reducing aid to Israel and giving more to

fore unnecessary. The Israeli Central Board of Statistics say the true figure is about 12 per cent, which confirms the basic American point. Israeli political observers note that the secret survey of Jewish settlements and the leaking of the results is the third

### Piano Island echoes to sound of China's turbulent history

This is the only place in China where pianos outnumber bicycles. On Gulangyu Island there are more than 330 pianos - and no bicycles. No cars, either.

As one walks along the pedestrian-only roadways, it is music and birdsong that filter through the banyan trees, not traffic noise or pile-drivers. Ivy-covered wrought-iron gates open on to vast colonial-style shuttered mansions. Around one corner, a pretty white church sits in landscaped gardens. The air is clean, and not one smokestack chimney can be seen. Can this really be China?

Gulangyu offers that rarest of commodities on the Chinese mainland - peace and quiet. The British had an eye for the island's potential as a comfortable repose when in 1842, after the first Opium War, they forced China to open Xiamen on the south-east coast as one of the foreign treaty ports. Across the harbour sat verdant Gulangyu, and that was where the interlopers were enticed by the scenery to set up home. A dozen foreign consulates were soon established, and with them came the missionaries -

and lots of pianos. We have many pianos from Britain, because the climate here is damp so British pianos are better, said 59-year-old Yin Chengdian, who runs the island's music school. And the one square mile "Piano Island", as it is called by the 20,000 inhabitants, is determined to live up to its reputation. There is the ferry building, which is shaped like a piano; and the island's concert hall, shaped, you guessed it, like a piano.

The history of the piano on Gulangyu is the history of the island itself. "In the second half of the 19th century the Western missionaries came here and brought the music," said Mr Yin. A tradition was quickly established. The wives of the missionaries were very good music teachers. So they taught the local Chinese." As Gulangyu de-veloped as a Western enclave, scores of wealthy overseas Chinese also started to drift back, and built themselves stately European-style mansions, faced with exquisite art deco stonework and stucco decoration. And with them came more

Even when the Japanese invaders came in 1938, the music played on. Then in 1949, in the wake of the Chinese Communist victory, the Westerners and rich overseas Chinese departed.
"But all the pianos were left behind," said Mr Yin.

During the first years of the new order, piano playing was po-litically acceptable, and by 1959,

GULANGYU  $\operatorname{DAYS}$ 

Mr Yin's brother, Yin Chengzong, had emerged as one of China's most promising planists, one of a number of star musicians to bail from Gulangyu. In 1966, with the outbreak of

the Cultural Revolution, the music stopped. A history of pianos and priests brought the inhabitants of Gulangyu no sympathy from the crazed Red Guards. Zhang Zhenzhen, the 46-year-old curator at the museum, said: "In some households I heard the pianos were smashed. The Red Guards. came to our house and took away a lot of music books." Mr Ym added: "People just did not play the piano. Because Western classical music was considered like capitalism."

The Christian Yin family, like many others, were thrown out of their home. Mr Yin's famous planist brother decided collaboration was the best chance of survival and became a favourite composer of revohttionary ballads - such as "A new song from the countryside' - for the Gang of Four.

death of Mao Tsetung, the music re-started just as suddenly as it had halted. Mr Yin was the piano accompanist at the first public concert. "The young singers gave a better perfor-mance than the older ones who were shaking so much they could not sing very well," he re-membered. His by now infamous brother left for America as soon as he could. Plans for a music school started in the early 1980s, and it opened in 1990 on top of a hill in a con-verted Thirties American missionary church. There are 180 full-time students.

At the end of 1976, after the

Across Gulangyu, some old homes, including the Yins', have been returned to their original owners. Others have been renovated as holiday homes for powerful state work units. Drawn by the seafood as much as the music, China's leaders often find the time for an inspection tour of Gulangyu. One photograph shows the prime minister, Li Peng, triumphantly holding a lobster at the Huang

Yan Dong restaurant in 1995. Deng Xiaoping came in 1984, and Richard Nixon also made it to the island. Like all VIPs they stayed at the Gulangyu Hotel built in 1923 as a private house by the the Huangs, an overseas Chinese family from Indonesia.

The Huang descendants are not in residence. A hotel manager reluctantly explained: "The property belongs to the Huang family but the government runs the notel and pays rent to the Huang family," she said. How much rent? "Well, in the past, the government did not pay any rent." So how much do they pay now? "Well, they don't actually pay rent now." So how does the Huang family feel about this? "Maybe the Huang family wants it back, but we don't know how to solve this problem."

Teresa Poole

internet - http://www.dly.co.uk



he man

pinkering

### Kabila keeps low profile as new era dawns

**Mary Braid** Kinshasa

Yesterday was Day Zero for the people of Kinshasa. Laurent Kabila, the new leader of the rechristened Congo-Zaire, took over the reins of power in the capital, sparking a frantic jostle outside the city hotel which has become the temporary headquarters for his new govern-

Hundreds of men and women in their smartest clothes brandished curriculum vitaes as hope of securing a job with the

ole are." said Paul, an unem-

ployed graduate who has been working as a translator. "Everything before is swept away - all the old patronage - and now people are insecure and un-

Paul added that the low-key arrival of Mr Kabila in Kinshasa on Tuesday night - and his absence from public view since had added to the unease replacing the wholesale euphoria. which followed the ousting of Mobutu Sese Seko.

"We can see Kabila does not feel safe because he did not they battled with security guards to get into the building in the said Paul. "And that makes us also nervous."

As civil servants and white-You see how desperate peo- collar workers fought for survival outside the hotel housing

Mr Kabila's alliance party, Mr Mobutu's former soldiers were queuing to sign up for Mr Ka-

Earlier in the day, two of Mr Mobutu's generals, Amela Lukima and Michel Elessi, jeered by a crowd of youths. turned themselves in at the city

The military transformation seemed to be going better than the political. Mr Kabila's aides met yesterday with political groups, including the city's most popular opposition figure, Eti-enne Tshisekedi, who had nonviolently opposed Mr Mobutu's 32-vear rule.

The alliance has repeated its commitment to holding elections. But last night Mr Kabila



Old regime, old evil: Kinshasans viewing torture chambers yesterday inside the looted Civil Guard headquarters

had still not announced the er. Mr Tshisekedi's supporters members of an interim gov-ernment, which would include opposition politicians. He had originally promised to do so within 72 hours of taking pow-

were out on the streets of Kinshasa in force, demanding he be made prime minister after Mr Kabila's appointment of himself

But at a meeting of Zimbabwean businessmen yesterthe South African president, Nelson Mandela, castigated Western countries for lecturing Mr Kabila on

democracy. He suggested that this was rich, given the West's long support for the former dictator Mr Mobutu. President Mandela said Mr Kabila was already making good his pledges. But there is considerable

concern at the alliance's lack of.

readiness for the monumental

task ahead - pulling this huge, bankrupt country, with a nonexistent infrastructure, back The local currency, already

in free fall yesterday. Many the soldiers to be released last had expected the alliance to night.

bilise the economy but diplomats say that the former rebels, still dizzy from taking the country so quickly, have so far formulated few, if any, policies.

Four British soldiers were reported yesterday to have been arrested in Brazzaville. British officials said the soldiers were part of the international evacuation force based there, but insisted that the incident was the result of a misunderstanding almost worthless, seemed to be Diplomats said they expected

Mobutu's men still walking tall in New York

David Usborne New York

Whatever may be happening in Kinshasa - the tearing down of images of Mobutu Sese Seko. the swooping into town at night-fall of Laurent Kabila, the renaming of an entire country at the United Nations headquarters in New York nothing

is happening. Here, in the citadel of world diplomacy, business goes on just as before as regards the third largest country in Africa. "As of now," the chief UN spokesman, Fred Eckhard, confirmed yesterday, "Zaire is still Zaire". And he adds, "And Mobutu's people are still the too. Once a new government is people here and who we deal formed, it must do two things:

Peer out of Mr Eckhard's sador to the UN, the credenfirst-floor window and there, tialling of whom would then be wafting in a gentle May breeze, is proof of this Zairean limbo. The flag of Zaire, ten poles down from the Union Jack, still flies defiantly, a square of pale green with a black arm and fist at its centre.

Indeed, wander to the conference rooms in the bowels of make that acknowledgement

mittees of the General Assembly are in session and there, apparently engrossed in the debate at hand, is a diplomat from the mission of Zaire - one of, as Mr Eckhard puts it, "Mobutu's people".

None of this is considered particularly strange at the UN. which is perfectly used to countries suddenly reinventing them-Soviet Union brought the biggest reshuffle in the flagpoles outside ever. (The flags are hoisted from north to south according to alphabetic order).

Soon, one assumes, Zaire (and the gentleman still at the mission) will vanish from here formally present a new ambasapproved by a UN committee.

No problem is likely there. It must also inform the UN Secretariat of the country's change of name. "Once there has been a critical mass of other governments recognising the new government, then we will the buildings to where the com- also," said Mr Eckhard.

### Harvard caught up in Moscow row

Moscow

and ill-judged speculation are ital markets function. two a penny in Russia, where corruption has thrived since pers, the US Agency for Interthe collapse of the Soviet national

Boris Yeltsin has pledged to clean the place up - a commitment echoed yesterday by the world-renowned Harvard Inarrest of a former deputy de-fence minister and chief military inspector, Konstantin Kobets, on bride-taking charges, But even the most hardened

Moscow cynic will have raised from Harvard University no less, that emblem of respectability and good practice. have been abusing their positions as advisers to the Russian government and misusing

These amount, it should be stressed, only to allegations, like most Russian scandals. But according to the Wall Street Journal and The Boston Globe, the US government has suspended a \$14m contract with the university after a preliminary investigation found that two United States government by using personal relationship for But for Russians it is, at the

Russians on how to manage the academia.

transformation from a centrally planned to a free-market economy, a task that has in-Allegations of doubtful practices cluded explaining how the cap-

> According to the newspa (USAID) has written to Harvard to say that two employees - the general director of the stitute for International Development, Jonathan Hay, and the project director, economics professor Andrei Shleifer -

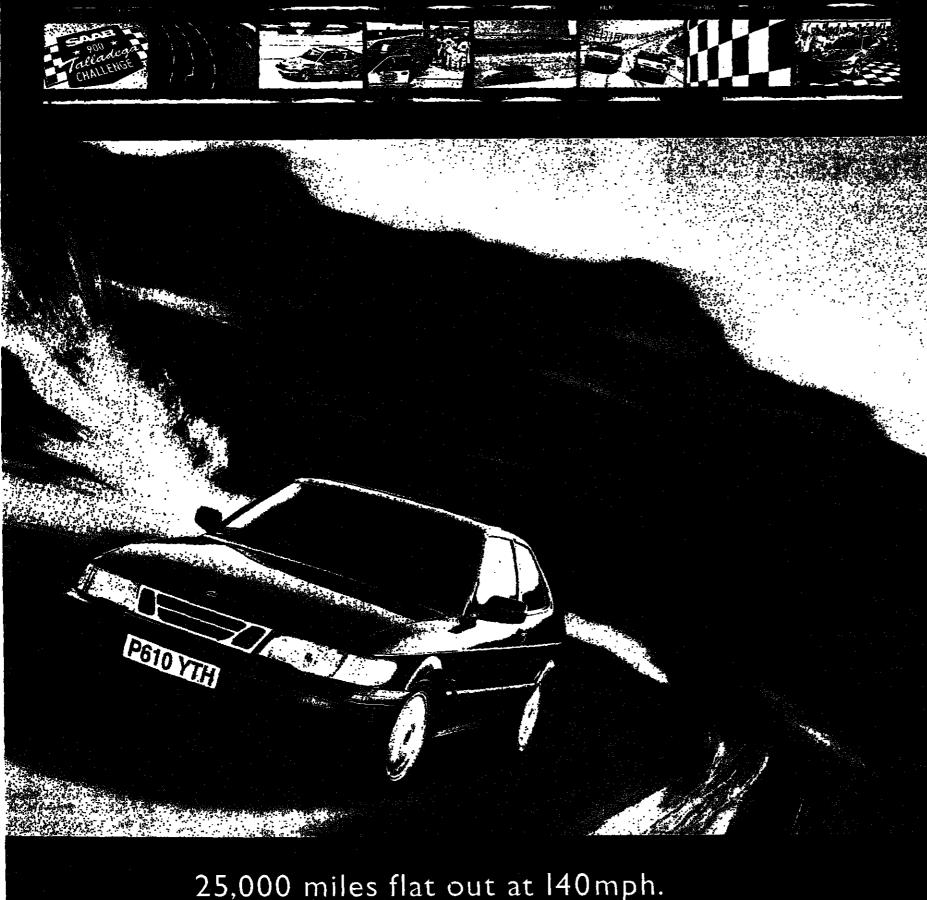
went beyond that brief. The agency has reportedly a small eyebrow at the latest claimed that Dr Hay "used reclaims to surface here - that staff sources financed by USAID to support the private investment activities" of his colleague, Dr Shleifer's wife.

Support staff, paid by the American government, have been buying and selling bonds. compiling information about tax, and tracking investments.

The two men's Washington-based lawyer, Michael Butler, said the USAID's letter was wrong in its conclusions, wrong in its assumptions, inaccurate in its facts and foolish in its

The case is certain to run and staff had "abused the trust of the run, doubtless spawning law

very least, a reminder that all is Since Russia's economic renot always as rosy as it sounds forms began in 1992, Harvard either in the cradle of democscholars have been advising the racy or in the stratosphere of its



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NDEPENDENT

# The man who holds the key to Hindley's future

public opinion, a great home secretary once said, is a compound of folly, prejudice, wrong-feeling, right-feeling ... and newspaper paragraphs. On 1 May public opinion seemed to vindicate itself and, speaking with particular consency about the ing with particular cogency about the need for political renewal, affirm our democracy. We witnessed the demise of a government that had become insensate, had swung too far from public sentiment. But, in a political culture in which right-wing tabloid newspapers owned by foreigners are so influential, hewing too close to per-ceived public sentiment can become a recipe for cowardice and retreat to the lowest common policy denominator.

A similar point can be made about the operation of the criminal justice system. To ignore the public's opinion about the gravity of certain offences and the fitness of punishment is to risk subverting the foundation of judicial legitimacy. For the courts to trim to passing flashes of public anger and immediate sensation would rob them of that particular quality of disinterest on

which the rule of law equally depends. At the fulcrum of the scales of justice sits that peculiar politician, the Home Secretary. That recent occupants of the position have played fast and loose with partisan disregard for consistency and dignity is neither here nor there. On the shoulders of the new Home Secretary, Jack Straw, lies responsibility for upholding the rule of law while ensuring public sentiment about infractions is adequately recognised. The case in point is that of Myra Hindley.

She has benefited from the fashion for judicial review of executive decisionmaking. The murderer's lawyers have got leave to challenge Michael Howard's decision to affirm the Home Office's earlier imposition of a "whole life" sentence, amending a previous ruling that she serve a 30-year term. There may well be issues of procedure and propriety here. Given Mr Howard's carelessness and occasional indifference to legal form (first witness for the prosecution, Ann Widdecombe), it is possible he has given hostages to fortune. Say the court were to judge that Howard had acted outside his powers. All that would do is put Jack Straw in the front line; he would then have to decide what he is to do with Myra Hindley. But, almost regardless of the outcome of the judicial review, the new Home Secretary ought to make up his own mind on the case. For him to claim that his lips are buttoned is to let discretion take over from valour: it is tantamount to saying politicians ought to be permanently dumb in case their actions are challenged in the courts. That cannot be right.

As a Lancashire MP Mr Straw needs no instruction in how the memory of the Brady-Hindley crimes lingers, especially in the North-west. With time, other crimes and other events of horror fade



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from public recollection, however long the relatives of victims may grieve; their perpetrators leave jail after serving their time, forgotten. But this offence has not been erased from public consciousness. Hindley's various noisy interlocutors and admirers have not helped her case; nor has the long delay in her revealing the full extent of her crimes. Reports of her own demeanour do not paint a convincing picture of a penitent. Perhaps it was also the cultural context of the crime - a side of the Sixties so distant from the music and fashion that

gripped the popular imagination. But is that relevant, if Hindley has

served an appropriate sentence and, like others who murdered in their youth, must no longer be considered dangerous? The trial judge said she should serve a very long time. She has. If the only considerations in the case were Hindley and the impartial operation on her of the homicide law, she would merit release.

But the Home Secretary must do more than check off boxes on a list of criteria. He has also to use his political imagination. At the use of that word some people will complain that the criminal justice system ought to be immune from politics. After all, our misgivings about mandatory sentences and

recent years have been around the substitution of politicians' judgements for those of judges. As a broad principle it unust be true that judges are largely there because they are better placed to execute justice than politicians, who are subject to whims and pressures that might undermine a balanced judgement.

But Jack Straw has responsibilities that no judge carries. On his shoulders rests public confidence in the legal mechanism, which is influenced by judicial outcomes. His, too, is the task of maintaining public order. The release of Myra Hindley threatens good order, both lit-erally and figuratively. She would, out of jail, become prey. The media would hunt her, however many disguises and new addresses she went through. Avengers would stalk her. Considerable police resources would almost certainly need to be expended in her protection, and that would in turn feed public resentment and anger. To recognise this is not to bow down before the prospect of mob rule or succumb to atavism. No home secretary concerned for the good order of society would wish to provoke con-frontation of this kind. That is the higher-minded reason for denying Myra Hindley her long-sought release.

There is a more cynical reason, but also one which will necessarily play a part. Jack Straw could be a first-rate Home Secretary. But he has a limited amount of political capital to expend.

other "reforms" enacted by the Tories in He will have to take many more important decisions that either offend sections of his party or elements of the public. There is little point in wasting his political capital on Myra Hindley. He should be clear why he should keep this woman in custody, even if objectively she deserves her release. Public opinion about her is too fierce. For her own welfare incarceration must remain her fate.

#### Unearthed: little nuggets

The Manchester runway tunnellers present us with a problem. Leading articles should, as above, consider the arguments, and stand on the side of right. But that approach is impossible to apply to people who call themselves. Muppet Dave and Shagger, River Rats and Pixies, live in camps called Jimi Hendrix Zion or Sir Cliff Richard OBE. Vegan Revolution. The fact is a public inquiry was held, local people mainly want the runway, its builders have dealt with many objections, and digging the protesters out is going to cost taxpayers a lot of money. Still, you can't help liking them. As one air pollution expert apparently said on meeting them, these delightful nut-cases are "little nuggets of joy", and we would be poorer with-out them. Even though they are wrong.

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### **Stop tinkering** and just ban tobacco

Sir: In your editorial (20 May) you suggest that Labour's instinct is for blanket bans. As regards smoking, the Health Secretary's proposals are no such thing. I agree that there is something dishonest about making conduct associated with cigarettes such as advertising or sponsoring racing cars illegal but refusing to contemplate proscribing the action itself.

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10.00

Tobacco smoking does more harm to health than any other external agent that we can identify. Our descendants will be completely bemused that a government in the 1990s allowed cigarettes to be sold while also knowing the health havoc that smoking produces. In Southend we have a large hung cancer study and in the 1990s we have already had over 1,500 deaths from lung cancer and this is in a population of just over 300,000.

government programme aimed at producing a total ban on cigarette sales. In order to minimise the social consequences in terms of jobs, this programme could be set over 20 years. This would give companies the opportunity to diversify and employees to find new employment. Acts such as banning advertising and sponsorship of sports, although steps in the right direction, are in fact only tinkering at the edges. Dr TONY DAVISON Consultant Chest Physician Heart and Chest Clinic Southend Hospital Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

Sir: Your concerns about the oppressiveness of a state ban on tobacco promotion should be waved aside (leading article, 20 May). The addictive character of the product diminishes the smoker's ability to choose. The tobacco-related death toll of 300 per day would stimulate the most draconian action if it occurred as the result of any other activityimagine if there was an air crash every day in Britain.

Frank Dobson's proposals do not go far enough. The tobacco industry's marketing budget should be visualised as a giant balloon of money - squash it down in one place and it will bulge somewhere else. To eradicate the industry's pernicious image-making, the Government will need to ban all forms of promotion, including arts and all other sponsorship, direct mail, loyalty schemes and so on. A partial ban could lead to a legislative "arms race", whereby tobacco companies devise ever more ingenious promotional ideas and the Government responds with controlling legislation. It would be sensible to anticipate the likely course of events and introduce a pervasive ban on all tobacco promotion from the outset. CLIVE BATES

Sir: Your leading article of 20 May suggests that the NHS should start charging smokers. This is an excellent idea. Smokers should be made to take out private health insurance. A surcharge should be made, vouchers should be put in each cigarette packet, and when enough had been saved this would permit the smoker access to private

London N16

healthcare. Of course the present tax on each packet would have to be removed, which even with the health surcharge would more than haive the price, and the shortfall to the Exchequer would mean a sharp



increase in income tax rates all round. However, this would be much fairer than the present situation, as the tax on tobacco is the most regressive of all. At present, low-income smokers subsidise the health care of middle class non-smokers, and then get told by newspaper editors that they should be at the back of the health queue because of their babit. The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL Peterlee, Co Durham

to "cigarette money contributing mightily to the diversity of sport, to widening fields of attainment and so to the greater pleasure of the participating and watching public" I completely disagree. Sport is nowadays not nearly as enjoyable a it was 20 years ago. The love of sport, amateurism and mild professionalism has been totally ruined by the intrusion of corporate advertising and greed. Witness one footballer being "sold" for £15m. GERALD FCKING

Sir: Your editorial (20 May) refers

#### **Tough posturing** no help on drugs

Richmond, Surrey

Sir: Could someone explain the hudicrous military vocabulary to which public figures always resort when discussing the use of illegal drugs ("Blair launches war on drug

abuse", 19 May)?
The reality for many people is. that drugs are not only socially acceptable, but socially ingrained. It is paranoid to suggest that there is some sort of identifiable subculture of drug abusers which must be attacked with words like

"launch" and "assault", and it is disingenuous to cite America as a success story. Whatever next? The policing miracle that was Prohibition?

I am not sanctioning drugs, nor am I pretending to know what the root causes are, but until these causes are identified and addresse and politicians and journalists leave the "moral" high ground and discard this farcical posturing about "being tough" on everything, there will be no improvements. TOM CORNFORD Selwyn College Cambridge

Sir: Recent research by a Department of Health Task Force shows the taxpayer can benefit sevenfold from every pound spent on drug treatment. But, in order to deliver this benefit from reduced crime, treatment and rehabilitation services will need the resources to lead this investment.

Our research shows that people are already driven away from treatment and into continued drug misuse by lengthening waiting lists. Drug services continue to report growing demand turned away at their doors - and even closure. The real successes will only come with new thinking on redirecting resources - and even the assets seized from dealers - into the treatment which the Government is right to herald as a key way forward. ROGER HOWARD

Chief Executive Standing Conference on Drug Abuse London SEI

#### Blunkett can end schools apartheid

Sir. I was glad to see from Donald Macintyre's interview with David Blunkett (21 May) that the Government is open to ideas on ways to open up private schools, beginning with the former direct-grant sector. Mr Blunkett is right to say that it cannot be done by the taxpayer footing the bill for people who might previously have paid for themselves. Hence the proposal in my book We Should Know Better that a version of the University maintenance grant system be applied to any private school volunteering to open its doors to all talents. Parents of pupils (like those of students) would pay on a sliding

In higher education the aim was to widen access, and it worked. Our best schools, like our universities, should serve the whole nation, rather than reinforce the privilege of the well-born. While I support the abolition of the much-abused Assisted Places Scheme, in the absence of more radical measures abolition alone could simply entrench the apartheid of which Mr Blunkett speaks. My scheme would stand the APS on its head; entry to once exclusive schools would be by right, not grace-and-favour.

I welcome many of Mr Blunkett's pronouncements to date, for instance on teaching methods. Yet I fear that progress will be limited while Britain, alone in Europe, has not one but two

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e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

educational cultures. Those who say that private schools are a distraction are merely avoiding the uncomfortable business of thinking. It is good to hear that Mr Blunkett is not among them. GEORGE WALDEN London W12

The writer was Conservative MP for Buckingham, 1983-97

#### Ali's fate strips boxing of excuses

Sir: Your remarkable review of When we were kings (15 May) and today's article about sporting giants (20 May) are the most emphatic and dramatic indictments yet of the "sport" of boxing. Today Muhammad Ali, a heroic Titan of post-war decades, is a shambling

incoherent ruin of a man. It would be amazing if this young ex-boxer's Parkinson's disease, an affliction of the elderly, were a coincidence. On the other hand. signs of Parkinsonism are very common in ex-boxers since they are part of the syndrome of brain damage caused by repeated blows to the head.

What further evidence do we need before the civilised world brushes aside the casuistic excuses for this most ignoble industry and bains boxing for good? TONY VAN DEN BERGH former inspector of the British Boxing Board of Control HELEN GRANT MD, FRCP retired Neuropathologist London NW3

#### Recycle coastal towns' sewage

Sir: The amount of water wasted through leaky pipes may be difficult to ascertain (letter, 20 May) but another source of waste is easily proven.

Every day, Southern Water discharges the waste/sewage from 400,000 people into the sea off the West Sussex coast. Over 99 per cent of this effluent is water - fresh

water.
If all the coastal water companies used inland sewage works, with the latest ultra-violet radiation that kills off most of the bugs, the resultant effluent would be so clean that, instead of taking water from the rivers and lakes as they do at the moment, it could be discharged there to be used again. KENNETH SCUTT Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Deep ignorance Sir: Len Salem (letter, 19 May) need not worry on behalf of F-H Hsu and the rest of the Deep Blue team. They are all well-known as individuals "in the trade", and are

receiving plenty of media attention

The UK has a proud record of achievement, both commercial innovation and academic research, in computer chess. Sadly, whereas in the US and Canada, the Netherlands and Germany, and many other parts of the world, this work earns respect and attracts extensive sponsorship from companies like IBM and Aegon, in the UK it is treated with faint derision and ignorance. Such is life. ANDY WALKER Nottingham

#### Widdecombe and powers of night

Sir: Ann Widdecombe, figured as Nemesis in David Aaronovitch's column (20 May), "waddled" into the Commons to put an end to both her political career and that of Michael Howard.

We are all aware, as (engagingly) is Miss Widdecombe herself, that she is a "butt of popular humour" (pun intended?). But if we take a liberty with classical tradition and suppose this particular Nemesis to have been an overweight, less than well-favoured, 49-year-old celibate maie, would Mr Aaronovitch's otherwise tolerably generous commentary have descended into the sexism suggested by "waddle"? Your editorial explicitly supports Miss Widdecombe. The Independent cannot have it both ways.
Dr RICHARD TODD

Sir: Does Ann Widdecombe's crusade against the Howardian forces of darkness reflect the cosmic e attracts like? There h been a lot of discussion about this recently and I have first-hand

vidence to suggest that it may be so. On Monday I was listening to the PM programme on Radio 4. Just before the broadcast of Ann Widdecombe's statement to the House about Michael Howard, I had been washing up a frying pan along with its thick reinforced glass lid. The moment the sound of Ann Widdecombe's voice came out of my portable CD/radio set, the glass lid on the frying pan shattered dangerously into many sharp fragments of varying size for no apparent reason.

This must prove that in order 10 ecognise "something of the night" in another person, one must possess a certain absence of the day in oneself. BARRY COTTRELL Faringdon, Oxfordshire

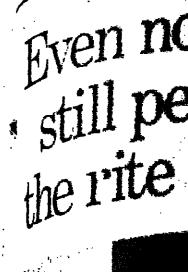
Sir: As a linguist in a research unit monitoring change in language, I was fascinated to note the occurrence pattern of the word "prestidigitation" in The Independent of 20 May.

Our vast corpus of newspaper text estimates the rate of occurrence for "prestidigitation" to be once per 17.5 million words. Thus, I would expect your newspaper to carry the word less than twice per year. Indeed, our statistics show no "prestidigitation" whatsoever in The Independent newspaper during the 18-month period ending March 1990.

However, yesterday's Independent contained five prestidigitation"s in a single edition, as many as have appeared in your newspaper in total since October 1993. By my calculations, this defies odds of approximately 50,000 million to one. As, perhaps, Michael Howard must now do to become the next Tory leader. STEVEN JONES Research and Development Unit for English Studies University of Liverpool

#### Modern barbarity

Sir: I was surprised to see in your report today (15 May) on the treatment of runaway protesters the expression "medieval brutality". Is this intended to indicate some moderate form of repressive conduct? If not, would not "20thcentury brutality" be more apt? It is hard to think of a century which could equal ours in systemically callous disregard for basic rights. Dr D A SYKES Oxford



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First steps: Tony and Cherie swing it for Labour, and (right) Lindy-hopping New Yorkers show how it's done Main photograph: New York Times

# New Labour, new dancing

The Lindy Hop, born 70 years ago in Harlem, is back. It's big in the US and spreading here.

Forget swing voters, writes Ann Treneman, swing dancing is what counts now

They are calling it the New Swing Era and it's the kind of uigi Babe Scordia is a cool cat in the hot world of New York swing, and he is a bit worried that I do not fully comprehend this. You want to know who I am?" he demands in thick Brooklynese. "I'll tell you. I'm Luigi Babe, and people call me the Swing Mafia because I come in stance not so important. The revival began a few years ago in San Francisco and with an attitude." He also comes with a 1960 yellow Cadil-

thing that New Labour's scouts should really be noting. This is the perfect dance after a land-slide victory, and offers an instant top-up to the feel-good factor. It's a Bill Clinton kind of thing: style is vital, sub-

worked its way east. Now they are Lindy-hopping on both coasts, with a lot of jiving in Perhaps all that talk of swing voters was just a cover-up for something a bit more fun. I tried to ask the spin doctors Peter Mandelson is said to

like a twirl or two himself - but not even a toe-tap was to be revealed at Labour party headquarters. The manifesto is silent on the subject, perhaps wisely. After all, there are all those kicks to the left and about-turns. And, of course, as a social dance it is just an "ist"

plus of making for an atmosphere so upbeat that they could bottle the stuff and sell it. "It gives you a real buzz," says the Julie Oram at jitterbug night at Notre Dame Hall, off Leicester Square in London, "We get all kinds here. Barristers, students, social workers, postmen." So what does she think of New

San Francisco is no stranger to this factor itself. It is at its best at Bimbos 365 Club, the

the 1950s that is now the city's top swing venue. Hundreds of young people arrive in vintage cars, wearing vintage clothes from fedora top to spat-shoed toe: it's a sip'n'swing sort of

"It's the alternative rock kids who are going for this scene," said Swingtime's said Swingtime's Moss, "the kids who

were into grunge, hip-hop, and all that. They just got sick and tired of going out and getting depressed listening to music. Now they can go out and listen A man who insists on being called Mr Lucky agrees (which

is just as well, because he writes for Moss's magazine). "These kids got tired of the same three rock chords that somebody ripped off from a Buzzcocks song in 1979 and turned into the industry of grunge rock. They've had it with the torn clothes and looking crummy. They want something with a little class, a little pizazz, something that looks nice and, you know, crisp.

He himself is a singer and swinger who dabbles in something called Lounge, and, in fact, was just on his way to LA to attend Lounge magazine's third anniversary party. "My favourite song is a Hawaiian lounge version of "Everybody Wants to Rule the World".

It is no surprise that Mr Lucky and Luigi Babe know each other, or that Luigi has his own opinion about Genera-tion X and the Lindy. "Why do kids love it so much? It's real simple. Are you ready for this, babe? Young kids are swing

dancing because it is positive. How do I know? Because they are telling me this. They get to embrace another human being. In the dances of the Eighties, didn't even need to have a partner. All they care about now is being embraced and feeling good.

Americans love to categorise, and swingers are not too out of breath to do just that. The main variation is between East Coast and West Coast swing, with the latter being slower and sexier. In addition, there is a generation gap of sorts, with more traditional dancers going for big band cra-type events, while younger swingers head out to hear more modern groups such as Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and the Squirrel Nut Zippers. -

Luigi Babe is not shy about stating his preference. "New York swing is faster, with a bit more edge and attitude. That's who I am. We call it Neo Pseudo Swing. This is a resurgence with a Nineties flavour. That's what I'm known for: putting the Nineties into swing. I'm not doing a rehash of what's been done before. What I do is high octane."

There is one problem with this scene, as 41-year-old Luigi

sees it. Cocktails, He doesn't like the glass. "I'm a tough guy. I can't go sipping with a straw. So I pick it up and spill it everywhere." He laughs. "I drink Jack and Coke because - you know what? - I like the glass. The kids drink blue, pink, green martinis."

Luigi suddenly remembers something else: he has a special drink named after himself. The Babe is red wine and Coke mixed together and he claims he was given this as a baby because I was hyperactive". ask him about New

Labour, New Dancing, but he doesn't know much about the British political scene, except that "that one guy was freakin' out". But he lidn't specify Blair or Major. However hazy political details are, he likes the NL/ND idea very much.
"New government? If I had

the right connection. I could bring my dances out there. We have our own dialect here. Swango is swing and tango put together. Then there is the swingcha. I tell you what I need from you. I need to get in touch with a booking agent to bring the bands over there. You know how swing came to England the first time - we brought it during the war. This is going to be the second invasion. I'm coming over there." You heard it here first ... but

the British swing scene can hop along fine, even without Luigi Babe. The latest edition of the fanzine Killer Diller carries ads for zoot hats, a page three "hunk", a feature on ialopies, and a Benny Goodman excerpt from 1940. "Swing has to get inside you - and it will eventually, although it has to crawl in, through your ears, through vibration, through your pores," wrote the King of Swing, "You're saturated with it, hypnotized, and then, when a cat sends a tune 'out of the world'. it fills every crook and cranny of your soul and mind. You start to shag! You peel the apple! You beat it down! You ride to town, ride right out of

the world with the sender ...' Things are a little less exciting at Ruby's Dance Club on Carnaby Street, where Jocelyn Young (sister of Ruby) is teaching a beginner the swing basics. "Keep low, knees flexed. Dance into the floor. Three steps and then push back," she says, Jocelyn used to go to lots of

swing and jive dances. "Jive is good fun, and it would be great

if it did become more popular Although some people now are really élite about it. If you aren't wearing the right shoes,

they won't ask you to dance." At Notre Dame Hall, the Lindy class is over, the lights are dimmed, the strobe is on, and the feet are moving too fast to see the shoes. Jerome Anderson is a Labour voter, a postman and a swinger. He sees a new world on the horizon. "Labour win, England win & at the football, the feel-good factor will be everywhere. Jive will be part of that."

A man named Porl Smith is setting the dance floor on fire, but takes a break while I shout my NL/ND question. He nods emphatically and shouts back: "New Labour, Old Dancing!"

That, of course, is a very dangerous word, and, as you read this. New Labour could be putting back on that boring old D:Ream track. But first, perhaps they should listen to Luigi Babe as he tips his fedora to a world where cool cats love an image just as much as Peter Mandelson: "Swing helps in this way too: if everybody dressed up, there would be no problems in the world, because no one would want to get their clothes messed up. Think about it ..."



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### Holes in pockets: a medical breakthrough

any years ago, when I was a mere lad, I used to suffer from a regular disfigurement. It was a blue patch on my thigh. This blue patch, measuring about six square inches, used to appear regularly twice a year, suddenly, then fade away again, gradually. The doctors were baffled at first, but then traced it to the fact that I carried ballpoint pens in my

trouser pockets.

"It's what we doctors call leaking pens," one explained to me. "You put the pen in your pocket. It leaks. All you notice is this blue patch on your leg. As a doctor, I would recommend you to use a pencil wherever possible."

And I did for a while. except that pencils have a nasty habit of coming through your trouser pocket and jabbing you in the leg. leaving your thigh looking as if it belonged to an unsuccessful graphite addict. full of injection marks surrounded by pencil shading. I finally gave up carrying writing things in my trouser pockets, and graduated to the more grown-up habit of secreting them in my jacket pockets. This, however, led

to another malady which the medical profession had never warned me about, namely holes in the bottom of pockets. What happens is that the pen or pencil gradually creates a small hole in the base of your pocket and then disappears through it like a brave British prisoner of war breaking out of a camp through a tunnel.

Unfortunately for his escape plans, the pen or pencil then finds itself in the lining of the jacket, not much nearer to freedom, and pretty soon you get a collection of writing instruments lying inside your jacket along the lower edge, plainly tangible but unseen and inaccessible. The only way they can be reached is by making a new hole in the bottom of the jacket, or by enlarging the pre-existing hole in the jacket pocket and reaching down to get all the escaped things, neither of which is to be recommended unless you are fairly desperate for a pen, or unless one of them starts leaking. Better to rattle around with these invisible

pens in your lining. At least

you'll know there's one there if you really should need it.



Miles Kington

Now, things like this are an integral part of the growing process of many boys, though they have never been in any major novel that I have come across, and there comes a time when we outgrow such foolish things. I have not had a blue thigh patch for years and years. Most of my jacket pockets are intact, and I have hardly a jacket with anything down the lining. (Though I have recently noticed some very small objects lurking in the depths of my dinner jacket, way down in the lining. I think these may be small wooden toothpicks of the kind used to spear bits of cheese or small sausages at receptions and which I tend to stick into my lapel pocket if there is nowhere else to out them. Presumably they then work their way down in

the traditional manner.) But I have recently noticed another malady attacking my person in the shape of weakened trouser pockets. Occasionally I will put loose change in a trouser pocket. not realising the pocket has begun to leak, and the money will then fall through a hole on the pocket, rattle down my leg like a fireman down a pole and reappear, cascading over my shoe. Bit embarrassing, really, when you're meant to be an adult. And the reason that my pockets are giving way. I think, is that I am inflicting an abnormally large key-ring on them.

Bunches of keys, like paunches and fingernails, just grow and keep growing unless something is done. I don't think I owned a key until I was about 20, but thereafter you start acquiring more keys in dribs and drabs

until... well, until I now have a bunch of a dozen or more keys, some of which I use a lot and some of which I never use and cannot even identify, but which I hang on to just in case, and every time I merely get the keys out to let myself into my house, I jangle like a warder going into a prison. And because you cannot get many keys on one ring, I find that my keys are on half a dozen different rings, strung together like those molecular models you occasionally glimpse on Open University

programmes...
"That's funny," said the doctor, last time I had a check-up. "You've got a blue patch on your thigh. Wonder

what it can be?" "Leaking pen?" I suggested.
"No, don't think so. Looks more like a bruise. Do you keep anything heavy in your

trouser pocket?" "Yes. A bunch of keys." So I have learnt something about life after all. Two things, actually. One is that everything leaves a blue patch on you sooner or later. The other is that if men really cared about ciothes they would have started carrying handbags years ago.

معكدًا من الاعلى

### Even now, they still perform the rite of spite

his was a gathering of an ancient cult, last remnants of a breed we thought died on 2 May. But no. not quite. All the high priests of the anti-welfare coven were there at the Social Market Foundation conference, "The Future of Welfare" - starring US grand wizard Charles Murray (Losing Ground, The Bell Curve). Spells were cast amid calls for ritual human sac-

rifice, mainly of single mothers and their babes. Lord Skidelsky, chair of the foundation, economist and Conservative peer, stirred the cauldron first with the theme of his book calling for an end to social security, a huge tax cut, privatising education and the NHS. Bang! The welfare state gone in a puff of smoke.

Assembled was an eminent mixture of people who had no truck with this cult - top civil servants, policy makers, movers and shakers from the Treasury, DSS and the Audit Commission. But all the old clansmen were there too - the ghosts of policies past, such as Sir Alfred Sherman.

A few weeks ago all this would have been ominous, but now it was almost entertaining. They thought the unthinkable all right and it was indeed, well, unthinkable. Whatever Frank Field has been sent away to think, he made it plain in his own short presentation that this is not the way his mind is work-

ing. Why these people always thought he was one of them is a mystery. He is a christian, they

Skidelsky begins with the convenient assumption that we cannot afford the welfare state. He quotes Tony Blair, who of course, said nothing of the sort. What Blair actually said was. "We have reached the limit of the public's willingness to spend on an unreformed [my italics] welfare system." Well, there are few people who doubt that it must be reformed, but the far right prefers to believe it cannot be afforded at all. High tax weakens entrepreneurialism and welfare weakens the resolve to work." That is Skidelsky's real beef: affordability is just a red herring. Of course a country twice as rich as it was in 1945 can afford it, so long as it is prudently run.

The far right are a strange bunch. First there was Myron Magnet, a famed US anti-welfare guru who sports bushy mutton-chop whiskers and speaks like Elmer Gantry, all parables and slogans, few statistics: the middle classes of the Sixties are to blame for everything—"personal sexual fulfillment" (yuk) and the "rebellious imperatives of the self" (disgraceful) percolated down to the poor who lost all shame in taking welfare. Roger Scruton said poverty is a good thing as the poor remind us of our social duties.
Others said visible poverty teaches the consequences of improvidence. Skidelsky mused that in mediaeval times great sanctity was attached to poverty. Someone else advocated free rice, beans and powdered milk in buckets in the street - but nothing else; while another ideologue quoted Tacitus who said giving away free corn caused the fall of the Roman empire.

Then came the Prince of Darkness himself, Charles Murray, who believes poverty is genetic. Illegitimacy is the real problem, he says, whether or not the mother is working and supporting her family. He didn't really explain why a man - any man - is the answer, but he wants no benefits for single mothers. "We will have to hurt them," he says, licking his Dracula lips. "They must know that disaster awaits." They must suffer a lot, yes indeed and publicly.



Polly Toynbee

Murray, Prince of Darkness, said single mothers must suffer. He is not for tough love but for

tough hate

cult for claimants to move in and out of temporary work and too easy to sink into lethargy and do nothing. It is too easy for the young to slide into a marginal non-working alternative life on the dole. It is almost impossible for single mothers to work without after-school schemes for their chikdren. It is frighteningly easy for small time or profes-

love but tough hate.

ers. He does not blame the poor

for their plight. Quietly, he talked of the one third of manufactur-

ing jobs for unskilled young men that had vanished since 1979,

leaving whole communities with

no means of support. "Under-

standing rather than condemna-

tion" was required. He wants

welfare to become once again an

engine for social advance and

betterment. Bad education was

the recruiting sergeant for wel-fare dependency, and low-achiev-ing girls needed "a hand-up, not

a put-down" to prevent them

ecoming mothers too young.

what he means yet. But one thing is certain, he does not belong in this tribe. The old left branded

him as a right-winger when he first said out loud that the system

offers all the wrong incentives and is riddled with fraud. But anyone

who ever comes in contact with

the lives of the unemployed

knows that to be true. We do not

need staring-eyed right-wing fanatics to tell us that.

The system traps those it is

supposed to help. It is too diffi-

Now we do not know quite

sional fraudsters to swindle on a massive scale. We do indeed need fresh thinking. The current Project Work pilot schemes have already shown how intensively supervised job searching, backed with compulsory work, gets up to 40 per cent of claimants off the books. Labour has a better scheme, with real paid work and better training, but the effect will be the same. Workfare will be mostly carrot, with a bit of stick for the under 25s and the long-term unemployed - and the signs are it will work.

Once the taxi-driver vote is convinced that fraud and idleness have been squeezed out of the system, then, as Field said, there should be greater public support for social security. For there will always remain a large number of people who cannot work - sick, old, mentally incapable, unemployable or living in the Barrows and the Jarrows where no work is to be had.

But it will not be as easy as Labour's election slogans made it sound. A brilliant speech by Two Brains David Willetts, former minister and social security aficionado, explained just how difficult reform will be. He pointed out that trying to make a smooth staircase out of benefit into work is fraught with problems: you iron out the steepest steps, only to re-create them further up or lower down the chain. Making family credit more generous to get more people on to it creates it own traps and linking the tax and benefits system will not solve that dilemma. All the same, his "Nothing can be done" message was another reminder that even the best brains in government need time off for replenishing from time to time.

Well, now we shall see if the two brains of Harman and Field can prove him wrong. One thing is certain, whatever "unthinkable" they come up with, it will not inhabit the same intellectual universe as Lord Skidelsky and the US anti-welfarists.

orry, sorry, sorry. My profuse apologies. Now into this seething morass God, I'm sorry. steps Frank Field for his first min-Words cannot isterial appearance. He had no announcement, but we listened to the timbre of his language and his words fell as soothing balm on prostrate, how wretched, how remorseful I am. Indeed, I am ears scorched by previous speak-

exhausted with saying sorry. For the last three weeks I have been taken to task by what seems like thousands of people demanding apologies for the most extraordinary things.
The other day I was

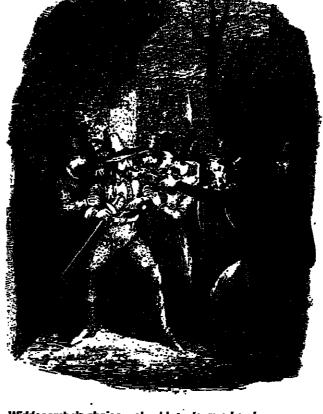
talking on the radio about the history of book illustration (about which I am, of course, an internationally renowned expert and genius). I interviewed artists, agents, picture commissioning editors. Lots of exciting and controversial points were made about lithograph and woodcut technology. But do you know the only thing listeners responded to? They wrote to complain that I had repeatedly pronounced the word "ill-yew-stration" rather than "ill-uss-tration". Scores of phone calls to the Duty Officer jeered at "this fake-Edwardian affectation", as one apoplectic caller put it. "Ill-yew-stration, eh?" sneered another. "Aren't we grand? Ooh lah-di-dah, hark

at Mr Toffee-Nose ..." Reeling from this onslaught, I then wrote a mild and appreciative piece about the new Department of National Heritage, in which I said Tony Banks, the Minister of Sport, was turning, a bit the sponsors, the Eurobabes effortfully, into a yob to fit and finally the cars. I his new status. Being myself

mentioned the striking lines of Frantzen's car, a ... what was it? A Renault? No name a globally respected connoisseur of the game, I, said knowingly that Banks, in appeared on its handsome his beer-swilling, laddish way, tin side. Back at the hotel I "comes on like a prospective flicked through Chequered Flag magazine and there, in brackets, after Frantzen's editor of When Saturday Comes", the soccer



Virtual pets can be a handful: the sought-after Tamagotchi



Widdecombe's choice - should go down a bomb

magazine. Hardly was the ink dry on the newsprint before at the placings for last year's grand prix. Two seconds after the editor of *When Saturda*y Comes was on the blower. Look here, he said, I'll thank the resulting article was you to keep a civil tongue in published, a distant rumble your head. I am not a vob. Our readers are not Rolling Rock-swilling hooligans. They are, au contraire, mostly flooding in from car buffs all fellows of All Souls, theology over the known world. Once students, rocket scientists last word in ignorance, the essence of dim, Mr Sorry in and designers of chess computers, with a smattering of trendy novelists among person. It's a good job I took them. Apologise at once ... And of course he was right, and I do. To get away from all this apologising, I flew to out the paragraph questioning the legality of the bald tyres on Schumacher's Ferrari ... Monte Carlo to write about the grand prix (I am also, it goes without saying, a transcontinentally acclaimed commentator on Formula One racing) for this paper. I reported on the sound, the sights, the people, the food,

woman clearly surprised to find large numbers of people prepared to like her for possibly the first time in her life, is going on Radio 4 in July. She will appear as a guest on A Good Read, the book programme devised by the late Edward Blishen. And what will she be choosing as her favourite piece of non-fiction? Why Antonia Fraser's colourful narrative history The Gunpowder Plot. An interesting, if puzzling, choice. Why Ms Widdecombe should enjoy reading about a fanatical Catholic convert

who plants an enormous

anyone's guess.

bomb under a lot of corrupt

and complacent politicians is

Unfortunately, I was looking

could be heard and several

and satirical intent came

thousand letters of crushing

again I stood revealed as the

nn Widdecombe, a

longratulations to Kathy Burke, who won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival. role as the mother in Gary Oldman's film, Nil by Mouth. But did it strike anyone else how poignant it was that the prize was presented by Hugh Grant, for whom the title of Ms Burke's film must hold an amusing resonance?

y spies in the nation's playgrounds report that nothing like it has been seen since the days of Cabbage Patch dolls. (Remember those odious. pudding-eyed little people that children could buy complete with individual birth certificate, national insurance number and

The plot thickens ... Ann Widdecombe's favourite piece of non-fiction is a book on Guy **Fawkes** 

john walsh

medical records?) The new hot property in Toyland is infinitely worse. Stand by for the appearance in your home of a Tamagotchi, the "virtual pet" whose name translates revoltingly as "lovable egg". It takes the form of a keyring with a screen on which you watch, with horror, as a little blob is born, grows, gets bigger and demands attention. From the moment the little beast is born, the Tamagotchi owner is

responsible for its health and welfare. It bleeps when it needs attention or when it's hungry (you feed it by pressing buttons). You have to wash it and change it and clean it up. It interrupts whatever you're doing with demands that you play with it. It gradually develops features, arms, legs and hair, as a sign that you're looking after it properly. Sometimes it will decide to be naughty and shake its little alien head from side to side, like a Bombay taxi driver, when you're trying to feed it. Then you have to discipline it, despite the practical problems of administering a clip round the ear to an LCD screen. If it's well fed, four little black hearts appear on the screen. At night, you have to turn its light off at 9pm or it won't be able to sleep. And it bleeps you awake at nine in the morning like a toddler, demanding virtual Cheerios. And here's the really attractive proposition - if it's neglected, it dies, and a little heavenwards. All the pets die, in fact, after 30 days; the

trick is to see how long you

watered, happy and disciplined before it sauffs it.

death were no more than an

can keep one going, fed,

And you then hatch out

another one, as if life and

assembly line. It's a bit of a learning curve for today's 10-year-old, although it tells you more about the eternal verities than the Spice Girls

At present, you can't buy one (recommended retail price £10; current price in the shops about £14) in London. Launched last week, the emetic little things are flooding out of Hamley's and Toys R Us like a stampede of bolting shoplifters. Last Friday, an unadvertised consignment of 1,000 Tamagotchis sold out in three hours (one per customer, maximum). Japanese businessmen in London, I'm told, go mad for them, especially the comparatively rare white ones, after a Tokyo pop star was seen on television chatting in a parental kind of way to his white-encased blob. According to my sources here, both sentimentally disposed 11-year-old girls and gruff, burly, rugbyalike fixated by these noisome homunculi. "They're terribly addictive," insists a woman friend. "I worry about mine all the time." Why? "I've developed a fixation that, if I neglect it, it'll do a poo in my

### The Flash that struck the City

#### Gordon Brown has learnt from the ghosts of chancellors past, says Jack O'Sullivan

just a few weeks, Mr Brown has handed interest rate decision-making over to the Bank of England and, then, just as surprisingly, shorn the Old Lady of her role as regulator of financial institutions. No one has burst into the Treasury in quite that fashion before.

"Chancellors don't usually hit the ground running like this," says Edmund Dell, a former president of the Board of Trade and author of The Chancellors (HarperCollins). "They tend to take a little time finding out about the job because they don't generally know much about it when they begin."
I cannot think of any precedent for

a chancellor who has acted so deci-sively," says Lord Jenkins, who himself moved into No 11 Downing Street 30 years ago and, as a political biographer, knows a thing or two about previous incumbents. "I admire the way Gordon Brown has gone about

Jenkins is particularly impressed because, as he says, "most chancellors take over in a crisis and then make the wrong decisions. In Gordon Brown's case, he has not got a crisis on his hands. He has underlying public finance difficulties, but no great shortterm problems."

In the Commons on Tuesday, Kenneth Clarke made a blistering attack on his successor, accusing him of making policy on the hoof, as he did

the speed with which the new chancellor has gone about radical reform has justifiably earned him the nickname Flash Gordon. In the nickname Flash Gordon has flash in the pan. "He seems to have worked out his programme and methods needed to a higher degree than I can remember of previous governments. So much attention was focused on this new government in opposition that they were forced to refine their policies and ideas." And, in any case, he says, the Brown initiatives spring from well-rehearsed public debates. "The question of the Bank's responsibilities have been debated for a long time. There are no new arguments."

Nevertheless, Brown's speed remains startling. We have become

accustomed to a succession of Tory chancellors - Howe, Lawson, Major, Lamont and finally Clarke - whose reigns merged into one another, and certainly were not begun in such dramatic fashion. Lawson will be remembered as the tax-cutting and reforming chancellor, who had a boom named after him and got out before the bust. But he took his time. So did John Major who waited a year before his disastrous decision to join the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. Lamont was hardly Stormin' Norman, living with the mess Major left, and Clarke did not rush into any early budgets. The then Sir Geoffrey Howe was perhaps the quickest on his feet, abolishing exchange controls in 1979, five months after taking office, a move that was arguably as important as giving the Bank its independence.

So what's the hurry Gordon? Lord



Callaghan offers a clue. "I remember," he says, "when I was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport in 1947, there was a wise old permanent secretary, Sir Cyril Hurcomb. I was just in my early thirties and

it was my first ministerial post. He said, 'Parl Sec, whatever you want to do, take the decision in the first three months. After that the bureauctacy will have built up and will stop you.' It was

It helps, of course, if you are at one with your prime minister. "Brown could never have done these things without Blair's backing," Dell says. Contrast that with the frustration which accompanied Nigel Lawson's chancellorship, when he failed to win Margaret Thatcher over to joining the ERM and to making the Bank of England independent. Brown's behaviour may also reflect

worries about his Labour predecessors. In Callaghan's case, he will remember that within days of Labour's 1964 election, the then chancellor came to a very rapid decision - not to devalue the pound. "It was," says Callaghan, "a political decision, because we would have been hung, drawn and quartered by the Tories at the time. To devalue then was like sinning against the Holy Ghost." But it was, says Callaghan's successor. Lord Jenkins, the wrong decision. Three years later a sterling crisis was prompted by the 1964 decision, so forcing the devaluation which should have taken place years before. Failure to take the right decision at the right time cost Callaghan his job.

And then there was the tardiness of Jenkins. Following the devaluation, he waited four months before introducing a deflationary budget - a delay that fast. But more imposed the markets jittery and led to talk quick is being right.

of another devaluation. "With perfect hindsight," he says now, "the budget would have been better sooner." Little wonder that Jenkins adds: "Well done to Gordon Brown for acting

decisively and quickly." Failure to take the tough decisions quickly enough afflicted earlier Labour administrations. Hugh Dalton, Labour's post-war chancellor, avoided a deflationary budget in 1945 by despatching John Maynard Keynes to Washington to raise cash from the Americans. But Keynes came back with half what was expected and in loan rather than grant form. That led to the sterling crisis of 1947 and a harsh deflationary budget, which was two years too late.

Mr Brown may be keen to move quickly to take the tough decisions; but his immediate Labour predecessor, Denis Healey, thought he had learned the lesson of previous dilatoriness, and it did not do him much good. He held his first budget with amazing speed -just three weeks after the 1974 general election. The budget was designed to deal with the enormous balance of payments deficit resulting from the oil price hike. But in the rush, the Treasury got its forecasts wrong with the result that public borrowing rose rather than fell. The mess had to be cleared

up in a second budget later in the year.

Many chancellors have been ruined by doing too little too late. Others have just been unlucky. Labour's ghosts suggest Flash Gordon is right to act fast. But more important than being

#### WHO BETTER TO HELP YOU CHOOSE A NURSING HOME THAN A NURSE.

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### Virgilio Barco

Virgilio Barco Vargas was President of Colombia during a par-ticularly violent period of its turbulent history. The Medellinbased drug-trafficking organisation led by Pablo Escobar launched an all-out war against the state, assassinating leading politicians, planting car bombs in city centres and systematically murdering policemen. Barco rose to the challenge, hitting back hard against the gunmen of the "Medellin cartel" and demonstrating that the country's democratic institutions were too strong to be destroyed by

But it was a close-run thing. and Columbia paid a high price for the president's brave stand. The low point came in August 1989, when the ruling Liberal Party's candidate for elections in the following year was gunned down at a campaign meeting near Bogotá. In all, three presidential candidates were to die during that election

campaign.
The traffickers' onslaught was provoked by Barco's decision to allow prisoners wanted on drug-related charges to be extradited to the United States. They could expect much harsher treatment from the courts there than in Colombia, as they were held responsible for supplying most of the cocaine that reached the streets of American cities. Until Barco acted the power of the cocaine cartels had been growing unchecked in Colombia, and the psychopathic Escobar had come to believe that he could do much as he

Barco's firm response was characteristic of a man who believed in the rule of law, in a country where it has needed courage to defend such principles. Colombia is one of the very few Latin American countries where military interventions have been the exception rather than the rule throughout its history, and where two-party elections have usually taken place on schedule. But the forces of anarchy are always threatening to break loose, as Barco learnt

as a young man: when he entered politics in the mid-1940s the country was plunging into a decade of undeclared civil war, known simply as "La Violencia", in which the rival Liberal and Conservative parties took up arms against each other and hundreds of thousands of people died.

Barco was born in 1921 into

a wealthy Conservative family in the department of Norte de Santander, on the Venezuelan frontier. His family had made their money in oil, and, like many young men of his class, he was sent abroad to study, re-turning at the age of 22 with a degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was exsocial and political life of his home town, Cucuta, but to his family's horror he announced that during his absence he had become a Liberal. This was at a time when party loyalties were set in stone in the Colombian provinces, and good Conservatives believed Liberals were in league with the Devil. His grandfather, General Virgilio Barco, never recovered

Despite his natural shyness and dislike of confrontation, young Virgilio stuck to his newfound political beliefs. Within two years he had entered active politics as a Liberal councillor in the nearby town of Durania. By 1945 he was acting minister of posts and telegraphs, and three years later he was elected to the lower house of congress in Bogotá. Thereafter he held a succession of senior ministerial and diplomatic appointments (he was Ambas-sador in London in 1961-62 and 1990-92) in the course of a long career in public life, culminating in his election as President of the Republic in

from the shock.

1986, with a record five million His landslide victory owed nothing to the rousing oratory or skills in backroom dealmaking that are the normal qualifications for political suc-



Aalding a stand against 'narcotemorism': Barco celebrates after the Colombian elections in May 1986

cess in Colombia. Austere and aloof, he hated making speeches and taking part in public debates, and was equally uncomfortable with the bureaucratic spoils system that had helped to keep the lid on political rivalries since La Violencia came to an end 30 years earlier. He preferred to sur-round himself with young technocrats, promoting several of them to ministerial posts when they were still in their twenties.

They served him well as he struggled to wean the Liberal Party away from its traditionally interventionist, protectionist ways and open up the Colombian economy to the freemarket influences that were sweeping the continent in the late 1980s. Barco is credited with beginning the process of privatising state-owned com-panies, which has continued the proved as incapable as both

under his much younger successors, César Gaviria and Ernesto Samper. He also saw Colombia safely through the debt crisis that afflicted the rest of the continent, ensuring that it never defaulted on its payments or had to seek rescheduling of its obligations.

Barco was frequently distracted from these tasks by the need to deal with the endemic guerrilla warfare that dated back to the period of La Viclencia. Four left-wing insurgencies roamed the countryside, spawning in turn countless right-wing paramilitary gangs bent on outdoing them in acts of terror and extortion. The president succeeded in negotiating a peace treaty with one of the left-wing guerrilla armies, M-19, which subsequently became a legal political party. But

cessors of bringing peace to Colombia - not least because former guerrillas tended to become targets of right-wing gunmen out to settle scores.

It will be for his resolute stand against "narcoterrorism" that Barco will be best remembered. Within weeks of his taking office in August 1986, gunmen hired by the Medellin cartel murdered the repected editor of Bogotá's great Liberal daily newspaper, El Espectador, and things got much worse over the next four years. It was left to Barco's successor, Cesar Gaviria, to bring about a peace of sorts by allowing drug barons such as Pablo Escobar to negotiate surrender terms, including guarantees that they would not be extradicted.

Unusually for a Colombian ex-president, Barco took no

further part in public life after returning from the London em-bassy in 1992. Partly because of advancing ill-health, he retired to his native region and refrained from making public

pronouncements. President

Samper ordered three days of

national mourning after his

Colin Harding

Virgilio Barco Vargas, politician: born Cúcuta, Colombia 17 September 1921; Representative to Congress of Colombia 1949, Senator 1958; Minister of Public Works 1958; Ambassador in London 1961-62; Minister of Agriculture 1963 and 1990-92: Mayor of Bogotá 1966-69; Ambassador to the United States 1977; President of Colombia 1986-90; married 1950 Caroline Isakson (one son, three daugh-ters); died Bogotá 20 May 1997.

### Richard Robinson

Richard Robinson was one of ers of his generation. Over a period of 30 years he created. with his wife the remarkable archives of plant photography. garden at Hyde Hall in Essex and in 1993 he gave this, through a trust, to the Royal Horticultural Society, of which he was made an Honorary

Fellow the same year. After studying Medicine at Cambridge, Robinson began his professional life as a pathologist, and was involved in early research into salmonella for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. However this life did not suit his restless, agrarian temperament and he abandoned the laboratory for the open air, to begin a new ca-reer as a farmer. Within three years, in 1955, he and his second wife Helen Chantler had bought the Hyde Hall estate.

Their gardening began as a means of making some order out of an unprepossessing, des-iccated and wind-swept site. The methodical and systematic approach of the scientist informed all of his horticultural activities and he began by making a thorough soil analysis of the whole garden to determine what improvements should be made before planting. In one area of especially glutinous clay he added ammonium sulphate and peat so as to increase the acidity and make the soil suitable for rhododendrons.

Soon, the development of the earden began to take precedence over activities on the farm and in 1974 the farm was let so that the Robinsons could concentrate on what had now become the main focus of their energy and enthusiasm. They shared much of the practical work and went everywhere together, collecting and exchanging plants, and making friends with a wide circle of eminent gardeners. Hyde Hall became home to a vast range of plants including the national col-lections of Malus (ornamental crab apples) and Viburnum and an impressive array of immaculately pruned roses; a plantsman's garden of the

ghest calibre. In addition to his horticultural talents, Robinson was a fine photographer, and for many years the official photographer of the RHS. He bought the Harry

Smith photographic library and the most distinguished garden expanded this remarkable collection into one of the world's. largest and most accessible

Robinson was a modest and quiet philanthropist who frequently worked behind the scenes to help his friends. When Bill Mackenzie (immortalised by the clematis that bears his. name) was in need of a hip replacement, Robinson arranged for it to be done by the top specialist. He was similarly a thoughtful and generous employer and made his principal employees in the photographic library directors of the сопрапу

By the early 1990s, the future

of the garden, which now extended to over 25 acres, was becoming an increasing concern to the Robinsons and their friends on the garden trust that had been set up some 10 years earlier. Formitously, this was at the same time as the Royal Horticultural Society, under Robin Herbert's enlightened leadership, was looking to expand its sphere of activity beyond Lon-don and the south. Hyde Hall was ideally located, well endowed and offered huge scope for the future, with virtually unlimited room for expansion.

Soon after the RHS took over, the Robinsons moved out of Hyde Hall and ceased to be involved in the garden. Although this was entirely as planned by them, it seems fromic that in his last years Robinson was not able to sit back and survey the ground that he and his wife had transformed.

The RHS now have an ambitious masterplan in place for the garden, even though the pace of development is more modest than originally envisaged. Thanks to the Robinsons' generosity there is the opportunity at Hyde Hall to expand the kernel of their creation into a garden of international significance. This would be a fitting tribute to a remarkable gardening partnership.

Tom Stuart-Smith

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer: born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27

#### **Ann Craft**

Over the years Ann Craft precipitated a quiet revolution in rather than shut out, the difthe way that services for people ferent and sometimes conflictwith learning disabilities (men- ing perspectives of service users, tal handicap) approach the sex- parents, staff and managers. uality of the people in their care. Latterly she played an impor-tant part in addressing the issues raised by sexual abuse of children with learning disabilities

and of vulnerable adults. Her research and scholarship contributed to a fundamental shift in attitudes in such services and had a huge impact on the lives of people with learning disabilities, who used to be condemned to furtiveness and ignorance, but are now accept-

ed as adults and as citizens. Initially she broke a taboo by speaking of these issues at all. and it is a tribute to her knowledge and her skills that she was able to do so in ways which have allowed consensus to develop around good practice. Her unique combination of research and scholarship, widespread consultation and accessibility, and her social work skills enabled her to hear as well as to

listen and to bring together, Ann Burkimsher was born

Hampshire, with a brief spell in Egypt which gave her a taste for travel and a certain air of indomitability. She worked abroad for the World Council of Churches for a time in her twenties but later studied at Swansea University and qualified as a social worker in the early Seventies. She then found herself working in Bryn-y-Neuadd Hospital, in Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd, one of the larger, old-fashioned, mental subnormality hospitals, where she began to articulate the needs of residents for sex education and support in their re-lationships. She believed passionately that service users deserved to be given the information they needed to make sense of their own lives and

personal options. Her early research work on

handicapped married couples (with her then husband Michael Craft), was followed by work sex education programmes, and and educated in Aldershot, both are still widely used. Her books on aspects of sexuality, including Sex and the Mentally Handicapped (1978), Mental Handicap and Sexuality: issues and perspectives (1987) and Practice Issues in Sexuality and Learning Disabilities (1994), are considered essential texts for undergraduates, postgraduates and for those on professional

> She moved to Nottingham University in 1987, and in 1996 was appointed Reader in Learning Disabilities. More recently she had been working with a colleague at Nottingham, Caroline Downes, on the sexuality needs of people with profound learning disabilities which she regarded as an appropriate "rounding off" of her contribution - the results of their collaboration will be published later this year.

Great, Roman Emperor, 337; Maria

ual abuse with this very positive commitment to people whom funded by the Health Education she regarded as uniquely dis-Council on the development of advantaged. In 1989 she and I convened the first national conference on sexual abuse of adults with learning disabilities. It was clear that there was much work to do to lower the odds that such abuse would occur and to ensure that people who had been victims of abuse were properly supported and protected.

She came to the work on sex-

In 1992 Ann Craft set up a voluntary organisation within Nottingham University to in-form practitioners and to influence public policy. Napsac (the National Association for the Protection from Sexual Abuse of Children and adults with learning disabilities) has gone from strength to strength. producing, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, model policies and guidelines governing the prevention, investigation and response to such abuse.

She spoke as a recognised authority on all these issues and

her views were sought by a very wide range of individuals Her response was to open the and agencies including the De-field as widely as possible; she partment of Health, the Asso- was always ready to give support ciation of Directors of Social to people starting out on their Services, the Association of careers or studies Chief Police Officers, and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual Abuse and Learning Disabilities. She was also the first social worker to be admitted on to the Royal Society of Medicine's Learning Disability Committee, in 1993, and had last year been asked to convene a sexuality group for the International Association for the

Disability (lassid), the main in-ternational organisation working in the field of intellectual disability. Ann Craft was as wise as she was clever and enormously generous as a colleague and mentor. She became a somewhat reluctant feminist as she analysed the pressures and prejudices which led practitioners

to flock to her seminars and

Scientific Study of Intellectual

mainstream academic agenda.

She was particularly keen to encourage practitioners who wanted to undertake practicebased research and a Fellowshin scheme is to be founded in her name to allow people working in relevant fields to take time out for such projects. Having started as a lone voice, she leaves a thriving and dynamic field of work and policy development: that is what she wanted most and will be her most fitting memorial.

The seriousness with which she addressed her work was balanced by the pleasure she took in her personal life. She was wonderful company and had many friends all over the world, having spoken and worked in Hong Kong, Japan, Australia. America, Belgium, Israel, Iceland and Italy. She was an inworkshops while her work was sometimes sidelined within the food - I remember sitting op-



posite her in Australia while she devoured, undeterred, something which looked like an extra from a horror film.

Ann Burkimsher, social worker: born Aldershot Hampshire 5 June 1943; Research Associate, Department of Learning Disabilities, Nottingham University 1987-88, Lecturer 1988-92, Senior Lecturer 1992-96. Reader 1996-97; Director of Napsac 1992-97; married Michael Craft (marriuge dissolved); died Nottingham 13 April 1997.

#### Sir Michael Shersby

Michael Shersby was one of the Falkland Islands' most active supporters, writes Harold Briley [further to the obituary] by Patrick Cosgrave, 9 May

He had visited the islands in parliamentary delegations in 1981 and 1983. This gave him first-hand knowledge of the islands just before and just after the 1982 Argentine invasion. It was Shersby who took the

lead in restoring full British cit-izenship and right of UK abode to all Falkland Islanders, which had been denied them and citizens of other dependent territories by the 1981 British Nationality Act. He pushed through the House of Commons his own private member's British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Act of 1983, in a formidable partnership with Baroness Vickers, who steered

it through the House of Lords. It was a measure of Shersby's popularity and of the respect he commanded in Parliament that the measure was enacted with widespread backing.

### Births, Marriages & Deaths

BANATVALA: On IS May 1997, to Florence (née Daguerre de Hureaux) and Jonathan a daughter, and Zoé a sis-ter, Madeleine Christiane. PATTISON: On 16 May 1997 to Deborah Markham and Giles Partison, a son, James Thomas Ridley, a broth-

STOCKER: On 15 May, at the Luton and Dunstable, to Karen (nee Bart-lam) and Mark, a daughter, Elizabeth Sophie, a sister for William and Harriet.

SYKES: On 13 May 1997, at bome is St Albans, to Stephanie (née Gree and Benjamin, a son, Oliver Jam Donald, a brother for Thomas,

#### DEATHS

CHENEVIX TRENCH: Richard, died suddenly at home 17 May. Much-loved husband of Jo, father of Jack,

Announcements for Gazette BURTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATRS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services. Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2012 and an extrapolate 5 55 a 25 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazerte announcements (notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or fuxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone unmber.

sion actor, 59; Mr George Best, for-mer footballer, 51; Miss Cheryl Campbell, actress, 48; Mr Menzies Campbell QC MP, 56; Mr Roger Casale MP, 37: Miss Jean Challis, radio presenter, 63; Viscount Dunrossil, former Governor of Bermuda, 71; The Right Rev Douglas Feaver, for-mer Bishop of Peterborough, 83; Dr Desmond Hawkins, former President of Hughes College, Cambridge, 74; Professor Sir William Hawthorne, former Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, 84; Sir Mark Heath, former diplomat, 70; Mr Anthony Holden, journalist and broadcaster, 50; Sir Edwin Leather, writer and broadcaster, former Governor of Bermuda, 78; Viscount Marchwood, managing director, Moer & Chandon (London), 61; Mr Paul Mariner, (London), 61; Mr Paul Mariner, footballer, 44; Sir Alan Pullinger, former chairman, Haden Carrier, 84; Mrs Betty Williams, joint Nobel Peace prizewinner, 54; Mr Ernest Wistrich, former Director, European Movement, 74; Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones MP, 48.

Births: Wilhelm Richard Wagner. composer, 1813; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, novelist, 1859; Laurence Kerr

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS AND LEALE GAWARDARAPH EART 15
The Queen precents are Colours in the lithic Gazania
at Wandow Coole. The Gode of Effetiment, Parton,
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wechanisher. Abber Than, Chare, a meeting of the
trackic at Westminister Abbey, London SWI; and, as
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tecquion at St. James i Palace. The Dadar of Bert. I knomary Air Comparador, reits RAF. Londons out,
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Deachine throng. Comberned, London SP, is a Palace,
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#### Birthdays

Edgeworth, novelist, 1849.5ir John Denton Pinkstone French, first Earl of Ypres, soldier, 1925; Augusta, M Charles Aznavour, singer, 73; Mr Kenny Ball, jazz trumpeter, 66; Mr Richard Benjamin, film and televi-Lady Gregory, poet, playwright and theatre director, 1932; Cecil Day Lewis, poet and author, 1972; Rajiv Gandhi, former Indian prime min-ister, assassinated 1991. On this day: the Blackwall Tunnel under the Thames was officially opened, 1897; the Battle of Anzio started, 1944; the Organisation of African Unity was formed in Addis Ababa, 1963; Cey ion changed its named to Sri Lanka and became a republic, 1972, Today is the Feast Day of St Aigulf of Ayoul or Bourges, Saints Castus and Aemilius, St Helen of Caeraarvon, St Humility, St Joachima de Mas, St Julia of Corsica. St Quiteria, St Rita (Margarita) of Cascia and St Romanus. Tate Gallery: Theo Matoff, "The Return of the Modern Native: Jackson Pollock and David Smith", 1pm.

British Museum: Christopher Date, "Extreme beauty...promising use': the British Museum and photogra-Anniversaries Luncheons Lord Righ Commissioner

Olivier, Baron Olivier, actor and di-rector, 1907. Deaths: Constantine the

ion's, Longion ECA, Princent Minrepret, Prevalent, the Guide Association, program the America General Most Grode Association, attends the Associal General Meetage at Commissional Department of Association SWI, and 
at Unaishmat. Longless ECT. The Data of Gloucesters, 
Patron, the Westmannier Society, attends the Association of Commissional Co

The Lord High Commissoner to

the General Assembly of the Church

of Scotland, Lord Macfarlane of

Bearsden, and Lady Macfarlane were the hosts at a huncheon yester-day at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, Among the guests were: Lord Lyell: Mr Richard Grant. High Com-missioner for New Zealand, and Mrs Grant. Professor and Mrs John Arbuthnett: Lt-Cul and Mrs David Chishohm: The Rev David Hamilton; Mr Gurdon Lame; The Rev Mar-jory McLeun; Mr and Mrs Gordon Millur; Mr and Mrs John Miller; Mr and Mrs Edward Weeple.

#### Dinners Lord High Com

The Lord High Commissoner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, and Lady Macfarlane were the hosts at a dinner yesterday at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. Among the guests were: The Earl and Countes of Mansfield. Sir Don-ald Maclean: The Very Rev James and Dr Anne Weatherhead: Mr Angus Grossart. Mr and Mrs Gerald Wilson: The High Commi-sioner for Lesothor. Mr and Mrs Peter Burs; The Rev and Mrs John Culher: Mr and Mrs John Culliven: Mr and Mrs Abstair Finlay. Mr and Mrs Edward Holt: The Rev and Mrs David Locy, Mr and Mrs Colm Luddell; Mr and Mrs Mannes Linkhalos. Mrs Am McCare. and Mrs Mannes Linkhalos. Mrs Am Mrs Core. and Mrs Magnes Linklater, Mrs Ann McCarter and Mr Jain McCarter, Mr and Mrs Andrew Roeke; Very Rev and Mrs Hugh Wylks

Foreign and Commonweath Office Mr Robin Cook MP. Secretary of State for Foreign and Common-wealth Affairs, held a dinner yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens, London SW1, in honour of Mr Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong.

Changing of the Guard

Manchester, and altern server, tree, suppose report at Manchester, and altern street, street and concert at Bridgewater Hall, Minkey Street, stone heaver Princers Alexanders opens the new Ress with and Educations Bridges at the Chebra Street.

### No VAT charge on licensing accountants

Accountants in England & Wales v HM Customs & Excise; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Thorne and Sir Roger Parker) 15 May 1997

The Institute of Chartered Accountants was not entitled to charge Value Added Tax on the charges it made for granting licences and certificates to practitioners in accountancy who carried on investment business, practice as auditors, or

practice in insolvency. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants against the decision of Mr Justice Tuckey.

Andrew Thornhill QC and Rupert

Baldry (Denton Hall, Milton Keynes) for the appellant; Kenneth Parker QC (Solicitor, Customs & Excise) for the

Lord Justice Beldam said that in granting licences and certificates to accountants who carried on investment business or practised in auditing or insolvency, the institute was acting as a recognised professional body in pursuance of Acts of Parliament passed to protect the public against the risk of loss due to fraud, incompetence, misconduct and breach

of trust in financial affairs. The institute paid VAT on LAW REPORT

22 May 1997

the institute.

had ruled that, although the institute supplied services in return for the fees charged to its members for authorising them to carry on the three types of business, such services were not provided in the course or furtherance of a business and consequently the institute could not charge VAT for the

The effect of the ruling was that the institute was unable to recover, by way of set-off, the VAT which it had paid on the supplies used in providing the service, against VAT which it would have charged its members had VAT been payable.

The institute had appealed to the VAT tribunal, which had concluded that it had not established that its practice regulation activities amounted to the carrying on of business for the purposes of section 4(1) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994, which it would have had to establish under domestic law.

It had then gone on to consider whether under Articles 4.1 and 4.2 of the Sixth EEC Directive (77/388/EEC) the supply of the regulatory licences was an economic activity. supplies used in performing Whilst accepting that the scope those services. The Commis-

sioners of Customs & Excise ity" was very wide, the tribunal did not consider that it encompassed regulatory activities of the sort carried on by

> The purpose of the Sixth Council Directive was the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to. turnover taxes, with the aim of introducing a common system of Value Added Tax with a uniform basis of assessment. In the United Kingdom the provisions relating to Value Added Tax were contained in the Value Added Tax Act

> It was plain that the words of the Act were intended to encompass the activities referred to in the Directive. Those activities were stated to be the activities of the professions, and not all transactions which involved the performance of services supplied in pursuance of the law would necessarily amount to a taxable supply of

services. From the authorities it could be concluded that the concept of "an economic activity" was one which typically was performed for a consideration, and was connected with economic life in some way or another. It was not however, an essential characteristic that it

should be carried on with a view to profit or for commercial reasons, but it must be an activitv which was analogous to activities so carried on.

An activity which consisted in the performance of a public service, to which the idea of commercial exploitation with a view to profit or gain was alien. was not of an economic nature particularly where the activity was one typically of a public

authority. Applying those criteria to the activities of the institute, they were not activities of an economic nature. They were activities which Parliament had decreed should be carried out for the protection of the

public. The fact that the institute generated revenue from the issue of licences, certificates or maintenance of the register to cover overheads did not of itself mean that it was an economic activity. Although it was connected with the activity of the profession of accountancy, the activity of the institute did not consist in the supply of such services for consideration, but in ensuring that those in the profession who did provide such services did so in accordance with the law's

requirements. Accordingly, the judge's decision would be upheld

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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OF THE YEAR

Interest rates expected to go up again next month

election, Gordon Brown raised base

rates to 6.25 per cent within a week of

polling day. With figures yesterday showing the

housing market robust and a strong

rise in consumer borrowing last

month, most analysts expect the Bank

to announce a quarter-point increase in June or July. Figures from the main

high street banks and building soci-

eties yesterday showed the housing

market recovery continued, while oth-

er consumer borrowing increased.

Financial Editor

1 T. P. INDEPENDENT

Robinson

Fiddie George considered resigning his position as Governor of the Bank of England in protest at the abrupt removal of his powers of banking supervision this week. The Bank was informed of the transfer of its regulatory authority to an enlarged Securities and Investment Board only 24 hours before the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, an-nounced the move in the House

of Commons on Tuesday. Speaking at a rare press conarrence in the Bank yesterday, for George put a brave face on the latest attempt by the new Government to modernise the running of the economy. He attempted to play down the lack of consultation with the Treasury but admitted he had thought about quitting after the removal of another of the

The removal of the Bank's regulatory powers has been strongly recommended a quarter-point

seen as a rebuke from the Gov-ernment for its perceived failure to prevent the collapse of BCCI and Barings.

reading too much into the lack en over the Bank's 300-year-old of consultation, saying the Chancellor was aware of the Bank's views on the subject. But he added: "All sorts of things go through your mind at times

The Bank of England has signalled the

likelihood of a further increase in the

cost of borrowing. Eddie George said yesterday that the sbort-term inflation

outlook was "extremely encouraging"

but he was concerned that strong

growth was building up longer-term

pressures, writes Diane Coyle.

The Governor was repeating the warning he had given Kenneth Clarke.

the former Chancellor, at their April

meeting. Newly published minutes of

the meeting showed the Bank had

The Governor made it clear he was unhappy with the speed with which the announcement had been made, only two weeks Mr George warned against after the Treasury had also takresponsibility for managing the Government's debt through its oversight of the gilts market. He said: "The surprise was in the timing. We wouldn't have made

the changes at this time."

seeing is robust domestic demand

growth at a rate which can't be sus-

tained for very long without actually giving rise to inflationary pressures fur-ther down the track," Mr George said

in a radio interview yesterday.

According to the minutes, be told Mr

Clarke the need for a tighter policy in

order to have a chance of meeting the

inflation target two years ahead had

become more urgent. The Bank rec-

ommended "making a start now".

Although the former Chancellor

the announcement of wholesale changes to the system of financial regulation that governs the behaviour of banks, securities houses and insurance companies. The main planks of his proposed changes were the creation of a single super-regulator, headed by Howard Davies, currently deputy gov-

and the transfer of banking supervision from the Bank.

Stripped of one of its core functions, the Bank's responsibilities now focus on monetary stability, where its role was boosted by the announcement two weeks ago that it would be free to set interest rates, and the overall stability of the financial system.

Mr George cautioned yes-

The Chancellor caught the ernor of the Bank of England, terday that the super-SIB must sophisticated investors and city on the hop on Tuesday with and the transfer of banking subscription be careful to avoid becoming a savers on the other." be careful to avoid becoming a savers on the other.

"bureaucratic monolith". He said: "It is enormously important that different types of financial service activity are regulated in different ways. I am confident that Howard Davies is totally sensitised to the need to maintain a balance betweeninnovatory vigour on one hand

cieties rose slightly compared with

March to £1bn, about the same level

as a year ago despite the transfer of Na-tional & Provincial and Alliance &

Mortgage lending by banks was al-

most the same as in March, at £740m,

and up from £568m a year earlier. The

banks reported the second-highest to-

tal on record for consumer loans, at

£1.2bn in April. However, the growth

in total lending by banks and build-ing societies declined a shade to 8.9

Leicester to the banking sector.

But he dismissed the suggestion that two regulators should have been set up to separate the supervision of retail and wholesale financial services: "That distinction is easy to say but difficult to draw." One of the crucial areas go-

ing forward, according to Mr

in M4, the broad money m

cent in March

slowed to 10.4 per cent from 11.2 per

Analysts reacted cautiously as

transactions in the gilts repo market

accounted for much of the slowdown.

Monetary growth in double digits will

still concern the Bank. The minutes

showed that Mr George had drawn at-

tention to strong M4 growth in the April meeting. He also said that the

pace of earnings growth, since revised down, was uncomfortably high.

gle regulator and the Bank work effectively. One possible fault line in the proposed system was the Bank's ability to ensure financial stability without the information it had gleaned up to now from its role as regulator.

A large part of the running of the new SIB's supervision of the banking sector is likely to fall on some of the 425 staff who work on regulation at the Bank. Despite the transfer of many of the jobs to the new regulator, the finance union, Bifu, expressed concern yesterday about the proposed changes.

The Bank have known for a fortnight that changes in banking supervision were coming yet they failed to alert their own staff and their union," said Ed

Sweeney, Bifu general secretary. Another 80 staff in the Bank's markets operations division are already facing uncertainty over their futures after Mr Brown's decision to transfer debt management to the Treasury.

### F1 teams threaten float delay

Business Correspondent

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3.39

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فتنة تستعد

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Leading Grand Prix teams are allocated to the constructors.

The top teams, led by Williams and McLaren, are unhappy with the 10 per cent be distributed among the constructors under proposals drawn up by Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank. The issue is understood to be far from settled, despite recent briefings given to City analysis by Salomon's suggesting that the final obstacles had been resolved.

tional empire, is understood to be locked in discussions with McLaren, with both sides details of which are secret.

Salomon's had hoped to proper the secret of t

and £2bn. Mr Ecclestone's current plan is to offer half the shares to the comment on the talks. public, retaining 30 per cent of the company for himself and Salomon's prepares to fly leaving 10 per cent stakes for the selected analysts to Barcelona teams and the sport's Paris-based governing body, the FIA. The teams are thought to be pushing to emerge with closer to 20 per cent of the business, leaving Mr Ecclestone with a

similar-sized stake.

stone and Salomon's are using the media to negotiate. But behind the scenes things are far threatening to hold up the high- from concluded." The source profile flotation of the Formu- added: "Frank Williams and la One motor racing business Ron Dennis are in no hurry to until the autumn in a dispute sort this out. The one thing over the size of the share stake Bernie requires is their cooperation, but no one can understand why he is so keen to get the float away over the summer."

Another problem remains the stake in the floated company to allocation of earnings from world-wide television rights, which are under the sole control of Mr Ecclestone's business. Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell, were thought finally to have agreed to sign up to the Concorde Agreement which divides up the rights. However, several issues are understood to be out-Bernie Ecclestone, owner of standing which could be crucial suggestion is that teams may decide to share out individual team bosses including Frank stakes in Formula One using the Williams and Ron Dennis, head same formula as Concorde,

Salomon's had hoped to prootiate personally. The teams are duce a prospectus on the float demanding a much larger share as early as this week, but it would in the floated company, which be almost impossible to produce could be worth between £1.4bn a document before negotiations are concluded. A spokeswoman for Formula One declined to

The problems have come as this weekend for the Spanish Grand Prix. The visit has already raised eyebrows in the City because only analysts working for securities houses acting as sub-underwriters to the float have been invited.



Bubbling: Richard North, Bass's finance director (left) and Sir Ian Prosser, chairman. Bass announced half-year profits up 10 per cent yesterday

#### **Decision** on Bass deal soon

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive of Bass, said yesterday that he expected a decision on the proposed £200m Carlsberg-Tetley acquisition to be announced by the competition authorities in mid-June.

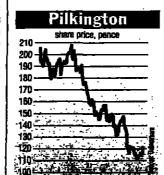
The deal has been marooned with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since last year.

The comments came as the company announced a 10 per cent increase in half-year profits to £318m, boosted by strong performances in its Bass Taverns business and the Coral betting shops.

There was also renewed speculation yesterday that Bass might bid for William Hill, the Brent Walker-owned bookmakers, at a price of up to £700m. The company declined to comment.

Bass shares fell 22.5p to 798.5p on fears that it might over-pay as its seeks a deal. There were also concerns over hotels business Investment column, page 24

### Pilkington ousts Leverton in bid to pick up pace



Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Pilkington, yesterday signalled a renewed determination to wield the axe at the struggling glass group by ousting the chief

executive, Roger Leverton. He is to be replaced by Paolo Scaroni, the Italian head of Pilkington's automotive products division, who has gained a reputation as a determined cost cut-

profit warnings over the past 12 months prompted a 6p rise in the shares to 121.5p yesterday.

Sir Nigel paid tribute to Mr Leverton's labours in reshaping Pilkington, which have seen some 8,000 jobs shed over the some 8,000 jobs shed over the past four years as the group attempted to combat plummeting European glass prices.

"We have done quite a lot of ter. Signs that the board may be restructuring but we felt the ficult in certain of our key ready to take decisive action to pace of change was not fast markets and results have been

reverse the group's plunging enough in a very difficult in-share price in the face of two dustry," he said. "Roger has that, under the circumstances,

Mr Leverton, whose two-year contract paying £447,000 in 1995-96 could put him in line for a pay-off approaching £900,000, ness had not come through to shareholders. "Trading conditions have been extremely dif-

done a good job, but it is not the next stage of the company's development should be handled development should be handled by a new chief executive."

Mr Scaroni joined Pilkington in November from Techint, an where he was executive vice chairman.

Prior to that he was for 12 years with Saint Gobain, the French glass maker, ending up in charge of the group's worldwide flat glass activities.

pany said the decision to replace Mr Leverton had been made by the non-executive directors who had decided that the nace of change needed to be accelerated. Although there would Italian engineering group, not necessarily be more job losses, the intention was to undertake a new delayering of management and costs.

The group yesterday con-firmed its March warning that profits would be cut to £130m in 1996-97.

### Celltech trial failure sends shares plummeting BAe seeks £160m

#### Sameena Ahmad

The risks of gambling on biotechnology stocks were starkly illustrated yesterday after the share price of Celltech. the UK's second biggest company in the sector, crashed by almost half. The company's shares fell 289p to 341p as the group said its leading product. a drug for septic shock, had failed final stage clinical trials. Celltech said the drug BAYX 1351, licensed from Germany's Bayer, "has not been shown to be effective in reducing mortality in septic shock. The

news rocked the biotechnology sector with shares in Scotia, PPL financially strong, he said.

Dr Bloxham said he thought

director, said the news was a severe disappointment. David Bloxham, chief operating officer, said ruefully: "When we got a phone call from Bayer yesterday morning and realised the news was not good we considered jumping off somewhere high." However, Peter Fellner, chief executive, said that there were

Cantab falling heavily.

Peter Allen, Celltech's finance

the outcome was more devastating for Bayer, which had publicly heralded the drug as its main product launch in 1998 and had already built a factory

to manufacture it. "I understand there will be redundancies at Bayer," he said. would abandon the sepsis work, price going again." but would continue developing the same drug for the bowel no financial implications for condition Crohn's disease and Celitech as Bayer had fully funded the drug's £100m dewould continue its leukaemia and arthritis programmes: "We

Analysts said that though no

one had been successful in developing a septic shock drug, the news was a blow for Celltech, particularly as the group was forced to abandon a drug for asthma less than two years ago. Ian Smith, an analyst with Lehman Brothers, said: "Celltech needs some new Dr Bloxham said Celltech and exciting news to get its share

Mark Brewer, an analyst with Hoare Govett, pointed out that the septic shock market was notoriously difficult. "Every single biotechnology company who

He thought Celltech's remaining drug programme looked weak: "We are positive about their leukaemia drug, but we think there will be a lot of competition in the Crohn's market and there are better products being developed for arthritis by companies like Glazo."

Analysts said the impact of Celltech's announcement on other biotechnology stocks highlighted the risks involved in the sector. Mr Smith at Lehmans said the market would

velopment costs. "We remain still have other legs to stand on," has got involved in septic shock predict whether a drug would financially strong", he said. he said. bas failed," he said. predict whether a drug would have failed, he said. make the City less inclined to assume success," he said.

Mr Brewer at Hoare Govett thought it would have implications for the queue of biotechs hoping to list in the UK. "Float" prices may have to be scaled back," he said.

However, several prominent names in the industry argued that the sector as a whole would not be held back. John Padfield chief executive at Chiroscience, said the market was increasingly able to discriminate between now question how easy it was to high and low-risk biotech stocks.

#### proached the Government seeking up to £160m in launch aid to develop a stretched ver-sion of the Airbus A340 longrange jet. Rolls-Royce is also negotiating an aid package to build an engine for the new aircraft based on its Trent engine. This emerged yesterday as the

Michael Harrison

aerospace industry launched a campaign to persuade the Government to increase research and development funding for the sector fivefold to £100m a year. Mike Tirmer, president of the

Society of British Aerospace Companies and head of BAe's commercial aircraft business, said that together with launch aid the industry was looking for a total of £250m a year in government support.

BAe also intends to seek £250m in launch aid for the 600-seat super jumbo planned by Airbus, the A3XX. The R&D programmes the industry is seeking increased funding for include a new wing design for the A3XX, advanced cockpit technology and a project aimed at reducing aircraft maintenance costs.

The industry will press its case at a meeting in the next few weeks with Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, Mrs Beckett will also at went overseas for funding.

tend the Paris Airshow next month, where ministers from British Aerospace has apthe four Airbus nations -Britain, France, Germany and Spain - are expected to review progress towards turning the consortium into a commercial company and the request for further launch aid.

aid for new plane

The A340-500/600 series will cost £2bn-£2.5bn to launch and will give Airbus a long-range 375 seat jet able to compete with Boeing's 747 jumbo and versions of the wide-bodied 777. Rolls is vying with the US engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney to supply the engine for the new aircraft. A decision on which manufacturer has been chosen may be announced before Paris.

BAc received £400m in 1987 to develop the A330-A340 family of jets. It is due to start repaying that launch aid this autumn through a levy on sales and is pressing the Government to agree the new support package at the same time. Launch aid repayments will bring in £500m for the Government

over the next five years. Mr Turner said that if Britain did not increase its support for aerospace R&D then 40,000 of the 100,000 jobs the industry supports could disappear over the next 15 years as companies



STOCK MARKETS

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F78E 350		49.30	+14.50 2.90	0.1	2374.20	2178.29	3.05
FT Small		01.57	+13.07	+0.6	2230.98	1989.78	3.50
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### Gambles pay off at Land Securities

four years by dazzling analysts with an unexpectedly good set of annual fig-ures and strongly hinting at more to come. Britain's biggest property group is often seen as a ponderous behemoth, slow to change, while younger, more nimble groups move into exciting new areas like out-of-town shopping centres and retail shed developmen

In fact, under retiring chief executive Sir Peter Hunt, the group has been more far-sighted than many, taking gambles in the teeth of the early 1990s property slump to launch what has become a £400m development programme. The fruits of that spending, which has added something like 10 per cent to the portfolio of retail and office property, are borne out in the latest results.

Pre-tax profits up 2.6 per cent to £244m were boosted by property sales, so the underlying revenue figure actually showed a small 1.3 per cent decline to £236m. But the real meat yesterday came in the chunky 13 per cent increase in net assets per share to 783p. As can be seen from the step change

in yield from 8.3 to 7.8 per cent on the underlying £5.3bn portfolio, there can be little doubt that the property market is on the move again. This figure, which excludes underperforming properties scheduled for development, has been helped by the link to falling gilt yields, which of course dropped again recently as a result of the move to give more freedom to the Bank of England to set interest rates. Equally, the recovery in the property

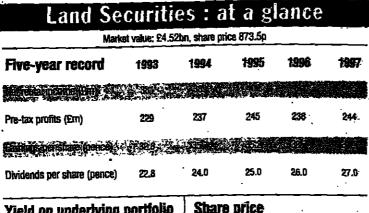
market has itself been patchy. The growth rates in Land Sec's portfolio range from 2.8 per cent for offices in the City of London to 18 per cent for retail sheds and food superstores. The next year, can fill Sir Peter's experidevelopment programme, already worth over £500m on current yields, has helped skew the portfolio further towards the sexier retail end of the market, which now accounts for 53 per cent of the whole. The next 3 million sq ft programme, due to begin in December 1998 with projects like the Marineau Galleries retail redevelopment in Birmingham, will only increase the bias towards shopping.

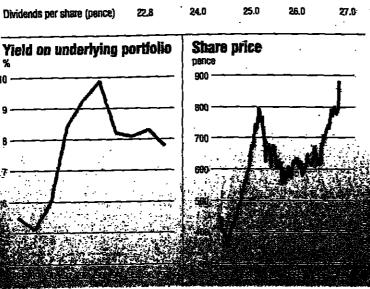
There remains, however, a tail of underperformers at Land Securities. Some 16 per cent of its properties are still in the sluggish City, with another 30 per cent in the patchy West End of London. The problem can be overstated though: the hangover of "over rented" central London sites from the 1980s, where lease renewals will come nowhere near matching previous rent levels, will not hit the annual rent roll by more than £5.8m in the next five

years, the company reckons. If Labour moves to further tighten planning rules for out of town retail developments, that should redound to the benefit of Land Sec's mainly citycentre properties. The only question is

and Securities yesterday did something it has not done for at least THE INVESTMENT COLUMN more Harvest Inns, while the Fork & Pitcher outlets have been renamed

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND





enced shoes. At a 3 per cent discount to BZW's net assets forecast of 903p for next year, the shares, up 29.5p to 873.5p, look fairly valued. Hold.

#### Hotel problems cloud Bass results

The brewing sector has lost some momentum in recent months and Bass is no exception. After a strong run which lasted for the whole of 1995 and most of last year, the shares have come off their January peak of 875p. They fell a further 22.5p to 798.5p yesterday, despite half-year profits in line with expectations at £318m. In fact, the City's worties about the company lay elsewhere.

Though the uncertainty over whether or not the Carisberg-Tetley takeover is sanctioned by the Monopolies & Mergers Commission is one concern, it is not the greatest. The major trading issue is the Holiday Inn hotels business, where growth whether lan Henderson, who moves up has slowed. The number of rooms only new O'Neills Irish bar format and

increased by 0.25 per cent over last year and most of the new rooms coming on stream are in lower-margin budget accommodation rather than in full-service hotels.

The second issue is acquisitions. The City feels the Bass balance sheet is under-utilised and that the company needs a major deal to drive earnings forward. A bid for the William Hill chain of betting shops is one possi-bility, though Bass could have picked the business up last year for far less than the £600-£700m it would have to pay now. The City is therefore equally con-

cerned that Bass will pay a big strate-gic premium, either for William Hill or a hotels chain. Hill would make a good fit with Bass's Coral chain, which had a bumper half, helped by the cancellation of fewer winter race meetings and improved margins.

Elsewhere in the leisure division, Gala bingo saw profits fall by almost a third due to intense competition and a drop in admissions. Its average customer is diverted into spending £6 a week on the National Lottery.

In Bass Taverus, the expansion of branded outlets continues with the Vintage Inns to suit its older audience

In branded drinks, Hooper's Hooch continues to dominate the alcopopmarket with a 60 per cent share, though sales growth has slowed to 16 per cent on last year. On full-year forecasts of £728m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 15 falling to 14. Hold.

#### Courtaulds leaves troubles behind

(ourtaulds' shares have been under a cloud of late, hit by concerns about the pound and other matters. But yesterday the market was in the mood to be a little more charitable, marking the shares up 24.5p to 330.5p. The problems of two years ago, when the price of key raw materials like wood pulp and acrylo nitrile soared, are now well and truly in the past.

The other local difficulties have been well flagged. The seemingly ever-present problems with currency are well known, while Courtanids signalled that it was having problems with over-capacity in the viscose market when it announced plans to cut 20 per cent of its European production in February.

So while the 2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £134m in the year to March looked modest, part of the performance was masked by a £14m contribution last time from discontinued operations like Amtico floors and the cellophane business. There was plenty to be hopeful about in the underlying group.

Tencel, the new fibre on which Cour-

taulds has lavished £400m so far, including £60m last year, has at last broken into profit. The group is coy about how profitable it is, but David Ingles at James Capel reckons it could have chipped in £14m on just under £100m sales last year. That augurs well for the third production line due on stream in Grimsby later this year and the next Tencel plant, due to be built in Korea, Indonesia or Singapore. Meanwhile, the group's long-term-plan to build sales of other products in

the Far East is also starting to pay off, with a 45 per cent jump in profits to £16m from the area. Worldwide coatings and scalants, still by far the biggest product division, is suffering from the cheaper dollar on translation, but Courtailds' strong position in niche areas like solvent-free powder coatings and aircraft scalants is reaping good underlying growth.

Viscose remains the dog of the portfolio, producing a small loss last year. It will not show real improvement until the industry cuts more capacity. But assuming Capel's forecast of £150m is realised this year, the shares, on a forward p/e of 14, look reasonable

### Sketchley director set to quit after accounting fiasco

Sameena Ahmad

Sketchley last night looked set to part company with Richard Meyers, finance director, after the dry cleaning to road duct group announced its second profits warning in just over a

Joe Jackson, chief executive, said in a statement yesterday that "certain accounting deficiencies" uncovered by outside auditors during preparation of the company's results would mean a "moderate" loss for the year. Analysis who had pencilled in an £8m profit for the year to March now expect a loss of between £1m and £4m.

Sketchley was due to present its final results next Tuesday when it was also going to announce a change of name. Shares in the group plummet-

ed 26 per cent to 65p A source close to the company said that, as Sketchley was without a retail division man-ager. Mr Meyers would have to take responsibility for the ac-counting fiasco. "That business needed most surgery and was gripped directly from the top,"

Mr Meyers could leave as ear-

ceived a basic salary of £109,000 last year. He is on a one-year rolling contract. It is not known whether he will receive com-

pensation. Analysts said that though there were no suggestions of im-propriety, the timing of yesterday's announcement was remarkable.
"I do think it's very odd that

a week before the chief executive is due to announce his company's results, he doesn't know if he will make an £8m profit or a £4m loss. It stretches the imagination," said one. Another said: "This is just one more nail in their coffin - another sorry episode in a sorry 15

Sketchley has been criticised for the slow recovery of its dry cleaning shops and diversification into duct laying with the acquisition of ARM this February.

Sketchley's statement said the accounting problems were limited to its group's retail division, a third of its total business, which incorporates dry cleaning shops and photo-pro-

cessing outlets.
Sketchley said the retail division would make a second-half ly as today. He has been with loss "in excess of the profit gen- per cent.

Sketchley for 11 years and received a basic salary of £109,000 erated by that division in the first half. Analysts estimated the retail division made £3m profits in that period. It said there would be a further provision relating to the reorganisation of the retail side against future rental shortfalls on properties vacated by the group and sublet to third parties.

Though details were sketchy and the company was not returning calls, the two areas of concern appear to be provisions for shop disposals and creditor and stock accounting.

Sketchley appears not to have written down the value of its stock adequately which could cost up to £3m. Moreover the group may now have to double the £7.5m provision it made last year for closing or letting 150 shops. Early suggestions are that the group may let out some of these shops for less than its own costs, charging the difference each year to expenses. However the auditors are thought to have asked the group to make another one-off provision of £7m.

Analysts said that though these were mainly non-cash adjustments, the effect would reduce Sketchley's shareholders' funds, taking gearing to over 100

### Carlton may go to DTN

Cathy Newman

Carlton yesterday gave a strong hint that it was prepared to switch camps to ensure that it had a significant role in digital broadcasting should the British Digital Broadcasting consor-tium it is backing fail to win a licence next month.

The company indicated that if its consortium lost the battle for a digital terrestrial TV licence then it would consider offering programming to the rival bidder, Digital Television Network. Carlton said that not only would it be involved in digital through ITV, but also "as a major producer and distributor of television programmes and

City analysts said yesterday they had anticipated Carlton's alternative plans, expecting the company to exploit its pro-gramming and production ex-pertise. One analyst said: "If Carlton aren't successful with BDB you'd expect them to go round the back door and negotiate with DTN."

Robert Jolliffe, media analyst at ABN Amro Hoare Govett. said the digital television environment was "generally incredibly good news for Carlton". He said: "Digital television will mean that there are more buyers of the kind of programming that Carlton produces high-quality UK drama."

Carlton's shares jumped part du 18.5p to 517.5p after it an-sterling.

nounced pre-tax profits up 11 per cent to £158.6m for the six months to the end of March. The results were roughly in line with expectation, but some analysts were reserving judgement on the full year until the results of the digital licence awards were known.

Carlton's television advertising revenues rose 11 per cent in the half-year. However, some analysts predicted that growth may not be so strong for the full year as the election had a negative impact on advertising revenues.

Three of Carlton's four divisions continued to grow, but the video operation reported a 12 per cent drop in turnover, in part due to the strength of

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### Signet shake-up leaves ordinary shareholders with 17.5% stake

Signet, the former Ratner's

jewellery business, announced its long-awaited capital restructuring yesterday in a shakeup that will leave existing ordinary shareholders with just 17.5 per cent of the company.

Signet said the capital re-organisation would reduce interest charges, improve liquidity and enable it to pay dividends on future profits. The H Samuel and Ernest Jones retailer has not paid a dividend since 1992 and does not expect to pay one in the current year. Signet's ordinary shares fell 6p to 30.5p.

The rebel shareholder Julian Treger, of UK Active Value, said he approved of the restructure

see the precise detail before giving it his full support, "We're glad they've announced a re-

now a very exciting company." Signet's chairman, James McAdam, said the company's plans to convert all classes of were pitched at a level which the board thought would be acceptable to all investors.

Under the terms of the deal the nine existing classes of or-dinary and preference shares will convert into 1.38 billion new shares. Dividend areas of £164.5m owed to preference shareholders will be waived. Preference shareholders will then hold 82.5 per cent of Signet with ordinary share-

between 7 to 8 per cent. If the capital reconstruction

shareholders who sought a a FTSE 250 company. shake-up in a filing to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, would hold 35 per cent shares into new ordinary shares of the new group. They have said that would not act in concert and so under Takeover Panel rules would not be required to make an offer for the company.

However, the reconstruction needs to be approved by a 75 per cent majority of each class of share. James McAdam said he was "optimistic" that the terms would be approved. Emergency and class meetings will be held on 26 June.

in principle but would need to holders holding the remain- should boost earnings per share see the precise detail before giv- der. UK Active Value will have and lead to a re-rating. Mr Treger said that if the restructure was approved Signet could structure at last. We think it is is approved, the group of rebel be valued at £500m, making it

Signet also announced its full-

year results yesterday, showing an 80 per cent leap in profits to £45m. Operating profits were 20 per cent ahead at £76.5m though there was a £31.4m interest charge. Profits in the US rose by 17 per cent while the UK operations, H Samuel and Ernest Jones showed a 25 per cent profits improvement. Like-for-like sales were 12 per cent ahead at Ernest Jones but just 1.2 per cent up at H Samuel. In current trading Signet said same store sales were ahead of last year and The new share structure in line with expectations.

#### Bluebird shares **down 37%**

Bluebird Toys shares crashed by 37 per cent yesterday after the company said distribution problems and slowing sales in North America meant 1997 profits would disappoint. The Swindonbased toymaker said overcautious inventory management in North America and a reluctance among some stores there to stock some products would push profits significantly below

market expectations." "Trading conditions for world toy markets in the first few months of the year continue to be difficult." Bluebird said at its annual meeting. The shares, which reached a peak in 1995 of more than 350p, fell 63p to

The news came after a difficult year for Bluebird, which designs and sells miniature toys. Sluggish consumer demand for toys because of competition from computers and video games, coupled with problems of over-stocking of goods at the company, sent 1996 profits down 35 per cent.

Until yesterday's warning, analysts had forecasted 1997 profit at £13m, up from £11m before exceptional charges in 1996.

### Blacks Leisure plans more stores

Blacks Leisure, the fast-growing sports retailer, yesterday an-nounced plans to open a further 33 stores this year as it reported a fourfold increase in full-year profits boosted by strong sales during last summer's Euro '96 football cham-

Most of the new openings will be in the First Sport format, with the remainder in the Blacks Outdoor and Active Venture fascias. The company currently has a total of 119 outlets.

Simon Bentley, chairman, said more space in its stores would be devoted to children's Company Results
Turnover £ Pre-tax £ EPS

children. The company will, however,

open a standalone Nike store like-for-like sales increases in Bromley. Kent this year. A were sustainable but said the flagship First Sport store opened recently in Newcastle with one floor devoted solely to Nike products. Blacks Leisure profits soared

to £10.2m last year, compared to £2.1m in the previous year. Like-for-like sales grew by 21 per cent. Mr Bentley said sales in the three weeks of Euro '96

were very strong.
"Summer '97 will compare to an exceptional trading period last year fuelled by the success of Euro '96. Notwithstanding ranges. However, he said the this we anticipate another very company would not follow rival successful year as the pro- 11p to 516.5p.

243,8m (237.6m) 34.85p (33.69p) 27.0p

Light Seturges (F) - (7)

Nearthant Betail (F) 93.25m (93.26m) 1.77m (2.16m) 1.43p (-3.27p) 0.25p (nl)

Mattenai Power (F) 3.53bn (3.95bn) 718m (806m) 48.9p (51.9p) 25p (23p)

JJB Sports in opening standalone stores devoted to younger refurbishment programmes progresses." he said. He declined to say if the huge

> main sports brands such as Nike, Reebok and Adidas were constantly developing new products and supporting them with large advertising spends. Blacks' share of Fila UK profits was £2.7m compared to just £700,000 in the previous year. In current trading same store sales at First Sport are 17

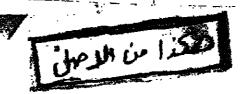
> per cent ahead in the 11 weeks since the 28 February year end. Blacks Outdoor sales are 13 per cent ahead on the same basis.

15.93m (14.49m) 688,000 (724,000) 1.09p (1.19p) 0.75p (0.75p) 2.69bn (2.52bn) 318m (2.69m) 24.8p (21.9p) 8.3p (7.7p) 90.75m (68.35m) 10.19m (2.11m) 22.57p (6.54p) 4.0p (2.5p) Carton (1) 895m (847-8m) 15.5am (21.3m) 17.3p (15.3p) 4.5p (2.5p)
Canton (1) 895m (847-8m) 158.6m (143.3m) 17.3p (15.3p) 4.5p (4.37p)
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General Cable (01) 21.79m (8.62m) -11.67n (-5.18m) -3.2p (-2.3p) 3837 240 0800 444 445 
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 5.7p (5.5p)
 1.4p (1.3p)



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IME INDEPENDENT

# COMMENT

'Even if he proves himself as sprightly as Jacques Villeneuve between now and

Silverstone, it is hard to see

how he can meet his timetable

# Ecclestone's Formula One win is not in the bag

The flotation of Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One may not be quite as close to the starting grid as his financial advisers Salomon Brothers and his fans in the sport

and the Press have been telling everyone.

The City had been led to believe that all final obstacles to the float had been overcome. Mr Ecclestone had patched up his row with the leading Grand Prix teams, they had settled for a 10 per cent stake in the quoted company and there was even talk of a prospectus being published by the end of this week. In all, we were told, the flotation would reach the chequered flag by the time of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in July

All this is news, it now transpires, to the likes of Williams and McLaren, who have led the rearguard action to stop Mr Ecclestone cashing in his chips without a fairer distribution of spoils to those who actually make this particular merry-go-round rotate - the racing teams themselves.

It now appears that they are holding out for a stake of nearer 20 per cent and still haggling over the details of the Concorde Agreement, which governs how the televi-sion revenues are shared out. Some of this may be just bravado, but that doesn't make it any less of a threat to the float.

Even if Mr Ecclestone proves himself as sprightly as Jacques Villeneuve between now and Silverstone, it is hard to see how he can meet his timetable. How could he publish a prospectus - other than one with a health warning on every page - without

the agreement of the most important names in the sport?

Mind you, he is doing his best to stifle dissent in the City. It will, by all accounts, be difficult to move at this weekend's Spanish Grand Prix without bumping into an analyst or fund manager there at Formula One's expense. In time-honoured fashion, the subunderwriting of the offer is being distributed as widely as possible. The same tactics were employed by BSkyB and the water and electricity companies to ensure that their flotations were greeted with maximum enthusi-

asm in the broking community.

Mr Ecclestone could call the constructors' bluff and press ahead regardless. But could he really float without the likes of Villeneuve, Frentzen, Coulthard and Hakkinen in tow? The constructors' altimate weapon is to withdraw their teams. Mr Ecclestone is familiar with such tactics. It is what he did at the Spanish Grand Prix in 1982 after falling out with the powers that then ran the sport. So he should know better than most that playing hard ball usually works.

#### The Bank is better off without this task

First impressions are usually the most last-ing, but the more considered second view is often the more reliable. So after the rave first-night reviews of Gordon Brown's latest City drama, Death on Throgmorton St. is

there any cause now for a little revisionism. Well actually not very much seems to be the

ميكان الاحل

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, is plainly more upset about the whole thing than we were led to believe on the first night. He still worries about whether this is the right thing to do and is understandably peeved about not being con-sulted on the speed of it all. If he had been told two weeks ago when operational independence was announced that the quid pro quo was announced that the quid pro quo was losing supervision, all well and good. But he wasn't. The Chancellor said that reform of City regulation was a longer-term goal after a period of debate and due consultation. Then all of a sudden it becomes immediate. Is Mr George right to be concerned, or is this just pique at being stripped of half his empire? stripped of half his empire'

There is a quite respectable case for arguing that, far from strengthening City regulation, the reforms will actually only lessen the Bank's authority and lead to an inferior form of banking supervision. There is a real danger, moreover, of the SIB evolving into an overly bureaucratic and authoritarian regulatory monster. That would clearly be a very bad thing for the City, significantly undermining its present attractions to interna-tional capital and banking. The function of good regulation, it is often said, is to keep the horses under control while not in any way interfering in the race. Certainly the tradi-tionally "light" touch of City regulators has

been as much a part of the Square Mile's success as its failings.

Central to this approach is the way the Bank of England exerts informal authority in the City through its supervisory arm. While this may be a peculiarly British way which leaves much to be desired, it none the less seems to work. Remove the Governor's eyes, so to speak, and his eyebrows wou't work any more either.

Despite these risks, however, there is every reason to believe that the Bank will actually function rather better stripped of its supervisory role, and that's not just in the conduct of monetary policy.

Shorn of supervision, the Bank can devote

all its energies to policy, knowing that it is not going to be diverted every five years or so by some massive banking scandal. Fur-thermore, the Bank will still retain overall responsibility for financial stability, so that when there is a crisis it will be taking up the reins in dealing with it. In other words it keeps the interesting bits while getting shot of the liability of the donkey work. Just think of it. Next time there's a banking collapse it won't be possible to blame the Bank. Instead the Bank will come waltzing in with the words: "Here's another fine mess the SIB has left us to sort out". Don't knock it Mr George. This seems like a pretty good deal for the Bank.

Less clear is whether the reforms will actually improve the system of supervision. Making sure that they do, and that City regulation continues to be operated in the interests of practitioners as well as consumers, is one for the process of public consultation.

#### Pilkington chief departs on schedule

The departure of the urbane Roger Leverton as chief executive of Pilkington is one of those stories that seemed so unterly predictable that it becomes hard to register it as a story at all. The writing was on the wall as far back as November last year when the share price first dipped back through the level of the 1995 rights issue. His exit became pretty much inevitable with March's profits warning.

As it happens, the dreadful underperfor-mance of the Pilkington share price is not all down to Mr Leverton. He's been operating in an appaling market place. The price of glass has been falling like a stone for the best part of two years now and the European authorities have meanwhile proved resistant to any co-ordinated approach to dealing with the industry's chronic over-capacity problem.

Even so, when a company is in a fix more can always be done. Mr Leverton plainly wasn't doing it, so Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of three years standing, felt justified in taking action. Sir Nigel will have to pray that the new man, a vicious cost-cutter out of the same mould as Sir Nigel himself, can do better. Otherwise Sir Nigel too might find himself walking the plank.

### Railtrack faces fines if it reneges on spending plans

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Railtrack, the privatised owner of Britain's track, signalling and stations, will face stiff fines if the company fails to deliver on its £16bn spending plans. John Swift QC, the rail regulator, said yesterday that he was seeking to extend his powers to ensure that Railtrack met its targets, adding that the company's delivery against its plans to date had been "disappointing".

The move was seen by many industry observers as the first of a series of measures under the new Labour administration designed to increase customer be poured into Railtrack this confidence in industries privatised by previous Conservative

yesterday pledged changes to will be carried out require somethe regulatory system governing thing more bankable than the ex- lator only has to take into acbus services, saying there were pression of intentions," he said. count the commission's view and "severe problems" in the regu-

Lockheed

latory system and there would be changes made to it.

But while the Government contemplates further legislation for buses, the slow pace of investment by Railtrack has forced Mr Swift to act. He said: "There remains a substantial backlog of expenditure on network assets, stations and depots which Railtrack must eradicate as a priority." With all the train companies'

subsidies fixed under the franchising process, Mr Swift is quick to point out that "most of [Railtrack's] annual expenditure is funded by the state". More than £2bn of public money will year - accounting for more than 85 per cent of its turnover.

"Assurances that the capital Prime Minister Tony Blair and maintenance programme

ment came just a day after Railtrack outlined a £1bn plan to upgrade the nation's stations under its network management strategy. He praised the vision presented by the company. "We have to accept that the spending is far better than it was when Railtrack was in the public sec-

Railtrack claimed it was too early to comment on the announcement in detail, despite being kept fully informed by the regulator's office of the policy since the middle of March.

tor," said Mr Swift.

There is little the company can do to stop the regulator from obtaining new powers. It could seek a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference, and would then have to prove the regulator was acting against the public interest. Even if the MMC were to agree, the regu-The regulator's announce- could press ahead regardless.

Sharing it out: (from left) Richard Harvey, NU's chief executive elect, George Paul

#### to pay MoD joins tax revolt over delays

The Ministry of Defence is to receive substantial compensation payments from Lockheed Martin, the US defence contractor, over delays to the delivery of replacement Hercules Transport aircraft, writes Chris

The first of 25 planes from the £1bn contract should have been handed over to the RAF last November, but Lockheed warned yesterday that it still could not give a firm delivery date. The aircraft are now unlikely to enter service until 1998. Lockheed is to hold talks with MoD officials next month to discuss compensation.
Bill Bullock, president of

Lockheed Martin Aeronautical systems, blamed the delays partly on the certification process with the US regulator. The penalties are thought likely to run into millions of dollars. Lockheed revealed yester-

day that UK aerospace com-panies had won almost \$500m (£313m) of orders from the Hercules contract, of which more than \$200m had been confirmed last year. Dowty, part of the TI group and GKN's Westland arm have both received " substantial orders.

# National Power

Michael Harrison

National Power yesterday launched its campaign to be ex-cluded from the windfall tax, arguing that since privatisation the company had raised nearly £7bn for the taxpayer, more than twice the amount shareholders had received. However, the generator declined to follow the lead of British Telecom and the airports operator BAA by threatening legal action against. the Government if it was included in the levy.

Keith Henry, National Power's chief executive, said: "A legal challenge is not high on our agenda. We feel it extremely unlikely that the Government

would do anything illegal.\*

The company said it should be excluded from the tax because it was not a price-regulated monopoly, had not made excess profits and operated in a competitive market with an in-

Mr Henry also argued that the taxpayer had enjoyed a windfall gain from the privatisation of National Power because of the way the Government had sold it in two stages.

According to an analysis sent to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, by the company, gains for the taxpayer from the sale of National Power totalled £6.825bn to March 1996. This figure included £3.86bn in net proceeds, £265m of dividends on the 40 per cent stake the Government initially retained and £2.1bn in

corporation tax, VAT and National Insurance contributions. Against that, the company said that shareholders benefited by £2.86bn over the same period through dividends and the increase in market value. The figure does not include the £1.2bn special dividend National Power paid last year.

National Power yesterday reported an 8 per cent fall in pretax profits last year to £740m as its UK market share shrank from 32 per cent to 24 per cent and wholesale electricity prices fell 4 per cent.

The company forecast a furyear to as little as 20 per cent as competition from independent generators increased. UK operating profits fell by £70m last year to £783m, but this was offset by an increase in overseas | living in the United States and profits from £15m to £74m.

#### Norwich members offered further shares at a discount

Almost three million members of Norwich Union, the UK mutual insurer seeking a stock market flotation, will be able to buy further shares at a 10 per cent discount, it was announced vesterday.

Members will pay 25p a share less than the strike price for the £2.4bn offer, which is to be fixed in an institutional book-building exercise. Norwich Union said it was

setting aside shares worth an estimated £800m especially for members. A further £400m will creasing proportion of revenue ther drop in market share this be clawed back from institutions if, as expected, demand from members is high enough.

Part of the total sale includes

The company estimates the public offer price of its shares Financial services shares have will be in the range of 240p to 290p, with members offered the discount on a minimum done very well recently, although shares are quite frothy."

Mini-prospectuses and apfurther investment of £400. Other retail investors will have to buy at least £1,000 of shares. All members have already been allocated a minimum of 150 free shares, with a typical windfall of

between £800 and £1,000. George Paul, NU chairman, said: "[We are] keen to encourage members to continue to participate in the future of the offer. Senior management set group. I hope that they will take out on a roadshow yesterday to advantage of this opportunity to sell their story to investors. buy further shares." Richard Harvey, group ch

Alan Richards, a director at £670m of shares which are to be First Marathon, the corporate fisold for the benefit of members nance house, said: "The price of the range of £1,524 to £1,840, with the shares will depend on the 43 per cent receiving the 300

where it is legally difficult to would be surprised if the price allocate free shares. wasn't at the top of the range and wasn't at the top of the range and the discount is attractive.

plication forms are to be sent to members now, with 10 June set as the deadline for receipt of applications.

The company said it expected its market capitalisation to be up to £5.6bn. Of this, some £3bn will be issued in the form of free shares to members, with the rest sold off in an international

Richard Harvey, group chief executive elect, said the average free share distribution will be in

#### IN BRIEF

#### Old Interflora board warns of legal action

Lawyers acting for the ousted board of directors of Interflora have warned they will begin legal proceedings against the rebel board on Monday if the new directors continue to refuse to hold a postal ballot of the organisation's full membership over the row. The new board, appointed at a mass meeting of Interflora members less than a fortnight ago, was still meeting yesterday to consider its own legal advice on the issue.

The original 11-strong board, led by chairman David Parry, argues the 1,000 members at the mass meeting were not repre-sentative of the full 2,600 membership. The old board's solicitors have written to lawyers acting for the rebels insisting that a ballot must be announced by Sunday. They said Interflora's articles of association specifically stated that a ballot must be called if supported by more than 10 per cent of members.

#### **C&W** wins Panama telephone bid

Cable & Wireless has won its bid to share in the privatisation of the Panama telephone network. C&W's £408m offer was cho-sen after international competition, giving the group 49 per cent of shares in the company Instituto Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (Intel). The company was attractive because of its high growth potential, with just 12 per cent of households in Panama currently connected to the network. Intel made profits of \$153m last year on revenues of \$246m.

#### TUC moves into domestic energy market

The Trades Union Congress announced a push into the domestic energy market as competition for electricity and gas gets under way next year. Union Energy, launched yesterday, will market to union members initially, offering discounts over the incumbent suppliers. However the company warned it would not match some of the "suicidal" price cuts seen in trials of domestic gas competition in the South of England. Union Energy is in talks with several potential partners, including regional power groups, which will be responsible for providing the fuel

#### US exports reach record \$76.5bn

Record exports shrank the US deficit on trade in goods and services by \$2bn (£1.2bn) to \$8.51bn in March. Total exports increased by 4.1 per cent during the month to a record \$76.48bn thanks to strong demand for a impact, capital mode such as telepozativni. strong demand for aircraft, capital goods such as telecommunicatious equipment and consumer goods. Imports grew by a more modest 1.2 per cent to \$84.99bn, which was also a record. The value of imports of cars and parts declined. There was a sharp improvement in the monthly deficit with China. The bilateral gap narrowed from \$3.34bn in February to \$2.59bn in March, the lowest since the \$2.3bn recorded in April last year. But the deficit with Japan expanded to \$4.61bn in March, an 8.3 per cent increase from the previous month's \$4.26bn gap.

#### **Pillar Property buys Fort Retail Park**

Wilson Bowden is selling Fort Retail Park, its 128,000 square feet retail warehouse development in Edinburgh, to Pillar Property Investments for £41.8m. Construction of the park was scheduled for completion later this year and would comprise fashion retail warehouse accommodation in 12 units, the majority of which had already been pre-let, it said.

#### Operating margins down at Bowthorpe

Investors at Bowthorpe's annual general meeting were told that the company's operating margins had been declining. Anthony Vice, chairman, said: "So far this year sales and orders have shown modest underlying growth but weaker markets, especially in Europe, have led to a decline in operating margins, although we have seen some recovery during April." He said the strength of sterling, particularly against European currencies, had continued to impact profits through translation. "Management figures indicate that the translation cost so far this year, in terms of pre-tax profits, has been running at an annual rate of £7m-£8m.

#### **OFT investigates Canadian gas company**

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating the activities of a Canadian company which is offering gas customers in the North-west guaranteed reductions in their bills in return for paying a one-off fee. An OFT spokesman confirmed a report in the magazine Utility Week that it had launched an inquiry after receiving complaints about Atlantic Gas Alliance. In return for a fee of £30 AGA promises to secure gas at a lower price than that of-fered by rival suppliers to British Gas. Utility Week said the local a number of other countries book-building exercise. But I share minimum, worth over £720. gas consumers council had branded the scheme "a waste of mon-

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# Norwich is no help as funds rush to buy financials

The Norwich Union discount could put further pressure on 220p to 265p in March to 240p to 290p. Members get a 25p a share discount. City institutions striving to ad-The Norwich arrival, just just their portfolios to the new

after Chancellor Gordon Brown is due to deliver his first Bud-The insurer's membersget, is, on present form, seen as come-shareholders will be a surefire success, with the offered up to half the shares shares expected to move comavailable in the group's flotafortably above 300p. But Mr tion. The stock market took the Brown could upset the Norwich view that the cut-price offer apple cart if his measures put the was sufficiently generous to enmarket into retreat. courage Norwich members to take up extra shares, thereby

Legai & General was the most obvious beneficiary of the reducing the amount avail-Norwich terms, gaining 20.5p to 455.5p. Others up in sympathy included GRE and Gen able for outside investors, par-The flotation of Norwich eral Accident. and a host of building societies has thrown the normally care-

Many observers believe Norwich, despite a capitalisation of fully structured weightings of up to £5.6bn, could quickly find itself involved in takeover action. The soon-to-be-quoted Halifax is one possible bidder. But Norwich may not stand still

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year Footsie climbed 34.5 points ing 63p to 106.5p as it warned to 4,642 reflecting relief over about profits. The shares touched 385p 18 months ago.

9.25p after saying profits would in fact be around £220,000. The

Rolls-Royce flew 5.5p higher

to 245p. After the market

closed the aero engines group

shares were floated at 10p.

MARKET REPORT

the no-change US interest rate Sketchley, off 23p to 65p, decision. At one time the in-Drings of Bath (1p to 2p) and dex was up 46.3. The biobabes had a shock-Coutts Consulting (12p to 35.5p) were others inflicting ing time. Celltech fell out of its trading gloom on their share-holders. London & Edinburgh.

pram after Bayer decided to abandon a septic shock drug developed with Celltech. The German giant had made positive noises about the treatment in the past few weeks... Celliech tumbled 289p to 341p; Scotia 10p to 392.5p and Biocompatibles International 32.5p to 1,330p. Cantab

centicals gave up 47.5p

posed by the Government to ensure Rolls remained under British control. Rolls and British Aerospace, which has a similar ceiling, have without success made representations to get the restriction removed.

investment had reached the

maximum 29.5 per cent of the

capital. The ceiling was im-

In the past when foreign shareholdings have broken through the ceiling, Rolls has been forced to sell the offending shares, creating angry responses from the shareholders involved who are often out of pocket. a publisher which came to market in August forecasting profits of £400,000, fell 2.5p to

Land Securities, up 29.5p to 873.5p, led properties higher as it reported a 13.3 per cent NAV increase. British Land added 28p to 588.5p and Brixton Estates 11.5p to 210p.

Cadbury Schweppes, weak lately, rose 16p to 541.5p following analyst meetings and

440p. Engineer Cobham rose 5p to 643.5p following the Henderson Crosthwaite investment dinner.

Pilkington's new chief executive lifted the shares op to 1215p with the warrants 3.5p higher at 17p. An encouraging trading

statement from Arjo Wiggins Appleton helped the hardpressed packaging and paper sector. Arjo put on 6.5p to 174p and Rexam 7p to 283p. Publisher Adscene held at 149.5p; its decision not to sell its commercial printing arm is

seen as supporting takeover speculation. The day's newcomer, the Eagles rugby club, was kicked into touch, trading at 33.5p against a 40p placing.

Airtours continued its upand-away performance, rising 12p to 1,013.5p on the summer holiday boom and speculation that the US cruising group, Carnival, could mount a bid.

Taking Stock

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Aminex, the oil group where the World Bank and Russian investors have substantial shareholdings, rose 11.5p to 85p, a new high, after disclosing its long awaited Russian deal. It has agreed to develop, in partnership with local interests, oilfields in Tatarstan, a Russian republic, which has sizeable reserves. Aminex run by Brian Hall, already has substantial interests in the former Soviet Union. Last year it lost \$955,000 against \$2.4m in the

previous year. 🗍 Peterhead, a crane and forklift truck group born out of the old World Fluids shell, rose 3p to 69.5p after reporting a £714,000 first-quarter profit and the £500,000 acquisition of a Humberside crane company. Although operating in England and Scotland, Peterhead's shares remain on the Dublin market.

# SEAQ YOLUME 812.6m.shales.a 49,868.barraus

Hence the institutional rush to buy financial shares to try and keep their ratios intact. "Norwich has offered fund managers little comfort", said one market man. The price range was lifted

ticularly institutions.

many funds into disarray.

disclosed that once again over-Merrill Lynch offered a gentle nudge to Railtrack, up 8.5p to to 917.5p.

Bluebird, the toys group, was another major casualty, slumpto await its predicted fate. It seas shareholders could be may well decide to strike the forced to sell shares as foreign Share Price Data Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, group Prices are in stering except where stated. The yield is test year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

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Recently however, he found

that the service in the club was a

bit slow and thought they needed

The RAC Club then wrote to

more staff, so he said so in the

him saying this was a complaint

and not a suggestion, and was therefore inappropriate for the

parently he should have com-

plained to the duty manager at

the time. On the other hand he

much of this: "I don't want to lose

One usually thinks of rugby players as a pretty basic lot, but the

coach for the British Lions tour

to South Africa thinks differently.

Ian McGeechan sent the squad off to an empowerment course

last week before they jetted off to

the veldt. You know. All that stuff

see whether the course, provided

by Impact Development Training

Group of Windermere, Cumbria, will empower the players to beat the mighty Springboks.

As we reveal the latest in the For-

about building bridges with planks. It will be interesting to

doesn't want me to make too

my membership, after all."

This floored Mr Fenner. Ap-

suggestions book.

suggestions book.

### A stitch in time saves us from the ravages of boom and bust

The spotlight has certainly been playing on the Bank of England during the past three eventful weeks. After Gordon Brown's announcement that the Government would create a new super-regulator which would take banking supervision under its wing, there is no doubt about what the Bank of England's core business will be in future. It's interest rates, interest rates and interest rates.

Ever since the Chancellor sprang his first surprise, critics of Bank of England independence have been muttering that it is a recipe for disaster putting responsibility for meeting the inflation target in the hands of the central bank – for heaven's sake, it's full of inflation hawks, they argue. Chief economist Mervyn King is seen by these parties as a particular kilijoy, proba-bly because it is his duty to present the Inflation Report, which has tried to explain why growth of I per cent a quarter will eventually lead to higher inflation.

The critics are a menace. They are like the kind of youths who race past you in a souped-up old Ford Escort with go-faster stripes to-wards the lights just as they are turning amber. They want to keep their foot down on the accelerator but will end up having to slam the brakes on at the red light.

The yob element among the commentators means the Bank will have to carry on explaining. slowly and patiently, why it is better to run a "stitch in time" policy. It is not that Mr King and his colleagues are "sado-monetarists" who want to keep the nation in permanent recession to guard against a minute risk of inflation. Rather, they understand, as the hot-headed hedonists do not, that it is better for business and consumers to put up with a handful of early small interest rate increases than face much bigger rises a bit too late. It to squeeze unemployment might mean £10 or £20 a month extra on the mortgage now but will save home-owners thousands of

pounds over the life of the loan. There is new evidence for the benefits of running a cautious and



DianeCoyle

At long last, interest rate policy is in the hands of a steady, middle-aged driver with his foot touching the brake, his eyes on the amber light and nothing to distract him

search published recently by the International Monetary Fund\*. It shows that a lot of unemployment is created when the monetary authorities have to engineer a recession to reduce inflation when the economy overheats. This exceeds the unemployment that remains if the economy is prevented from growing enough to reach the "nonaccelerating inflation rate of unemployment" or Nairu.

In other words, it makes sense not absolutely as low as it can go without triggering inflation because the costs of going too far are so high. In the words of the authors: "There can be significant gains from prebenefits of running a cautious and stable macroeconomic policy in re-

results of monetary policy that will flation rise by 1 percentage point bias a competent central bank topolicy that avoids boom and bust cycles can in fact raise the average level of employment and output."

To understand this it is helpful to go back to the original relationship between inflation and unemployment, known as the Phillips curve after the economist who devised it in 1958. Plotted as a graph, this curve slopes down - the lower unemployment, the higher is inflation. Most economists believe that in

the long run, there is no trade-off between inflation and unemployment.
If the government stimulates the economy there will be a temporary gain in jobs at the price of higher in-flation. But as people adjust to the increase in inflation and bid for higher wages to compensate, unemployment will rise again and the economy will be back to the same jobless rate but a higher inflation rate.

There is a short-run move along. a Phillips curve, but the curve will shift out. The long-run Phillips curve will be vertical at a rate of unem-ployment - the Nairu - which is determined by supply conditions like the degree of flexibility in the jobs market, the productivity of the workforce, the availability of unemployment benefit and so on.

The development of this view explains the growing policy emphasis on controlling inflation that has emerged in most OECD countries since the late 1970s. The new IMF research emphasises that not only is there no long-run trade-off, but there is also a good reason to avoid trying to exploit the short-run tradeoff. Unemployment will be lower the less variable the economic cycle.

For most economists have treated the Phillips curve as a straight line: the inflation cost of reducing unemployment is set equal to the inflation benefit of increased unemployment. In fact, there are good theoretical reasons and empirical evidence for regarding it as a convex curve, where the rise in unemployment needed to reduce inflation by 1 percentage point is bigger than the fall in unemployment achieved by letting in-

The paper shows that experience wards caution. "A macroeconomic since the early 1970s supports this view. It could be caused by, for example, the tendency for bottlenecks to emerge in some segments of the jobs market which would prevent wages from falling below a certain floor. The economy will tend to-wards a normal - or "natural" -

rate of unemployment which will be higher than the Nairu if demand is volatile. Booms will trigger wage and price inflation quite quickly. whereas busts will not achieve a big reduction in wage and price inflation as unemployment rises because some bits of the jobs market will still have bottlenecks. It is not clear quite how big the

costs of a boom and bust policy might be, but the paper concludes that unemployment will certainly be higher. The Bank of England's preference for a stitch in time, expressed again by Eddie George yesterday, will help to reduce the unemployment rate on average, even if it prevents as big a drop in joblessness as could be achieved right now.

It must be said, too, that the Bank is not unduly gloomy about the in-flationary dangers. The forecast it presented in last week's Inflation Report, which made the technical assumption of unchanged interest rates, was lower than many independent forecasts, which do assume there will be further rate rises.

At long last, interest rate policy is in the hands of a steady, middleaged driver with his foot touching the brake, his eyes on the amber light and nothing to distract him. As long as they go ahead as billed, Mr Brown's reforms will yield lower inflation, lower interest rates and lower unemployment for years to come. The Chancellor has decided that the classic British handbrake turns are not for him. Thank goodness the Bank of England is not keen on them either.

\* Phillips Curves, Phillips Lines and the Unemployment Costs of Overheating', Peter Clarke and Douglas Laxton, IMF Working Paper February 1997.

Liffe Financial Futures

### Courtaulds chief turns his back on the wonder fabric

Courtaulds chief executive Gordon Campbell was in his usual relaxed mood yesterday, but not sufficiently relaxed to follow the latest fashion to dress down. He told City scribes: "I thought I should apologise for wearing a suit this morning and not following the trend to casual clothing. I ought to have pitched up in a T-shirt and jeans."

The faux pas was made worse by the fact that Tencel, Courtaukts' new wonder fabric, made a splash in Japan as a replacement for denim. Mr Campbell revealed that Tencel sales have moved beyond Japan and are now strongesi in Europe, where customers like something "innovative and unique". So now you know.

Manchester's tram and rail network, Altram, has got a new chairman - the former chief executive of Manchester Airport, Sir Gilbert Thompson.
Now that's what I call good

timing. Just as the airport people are trying to unearth folk hero Swampy from his tunnel below the proposed site for the new runway, Sir Gilbert is taking over a tram system that is the epitome of environmental friendliness.

Altram is made up of John Laing, Ansaldo Trasporti, Serco and the 3i Group, which is to build and operate Manchester's Metrolink extension to Salford Keys and Eccles by 2000. This will extend the city centre tram system which has proved such a hit with the public.

So Swampy can do his worst -Sir Gilbert is riding high.

The "world's richest man", Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, was ad-dressing a conference this week held by NCR, the cashpoint company, in New York. The great man, who is estimated to be worth around \$32bn (or something like that) was chatting to the audience, and to illustrate the uses of a new programme, used his card to get some money out of

an NCR atm on stage.
In fact it was NCR pretend money. Seeing this, our Bill declared: "Ah well, I guess I've got enough money in any case," to much sycophantic laughter.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



No fashion fad: Gordon Campbell casually shunned T-shirt and jeans

Roger Luard of FlexTech might have bitten off more than he can chew this time. FlexTech's cable TV company, UK Living, has just started a cheeky nationwide poster campaign using the slogan:
"Wouldn't it be great if Kate
Moss was fat?"

Here the waif-like model's lawyer, Gerrard Tyrell of Harbottle & Lewis, takes up the story: "A couple of weeks ago GGT, UK Living's advertising agency, approached Kate Moss to ask if her name could be used in the ads. She said no, simply because she already has a number of exclusive

advertising agreements.
"Then last Friday all these posters went up, and we started getting lots of calls from journalists about it. We've written to UK Living asking for an explanation."
One suspects that, whatever the

outcome of Mr Tyrell's enquiries, UK Living will have got its publicity. Pass the cream cakes.

They're a pedantic lot at the Ep-

City law firm Fenners enjoys

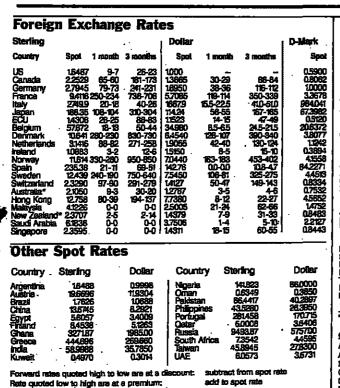
spending Sundays at the club

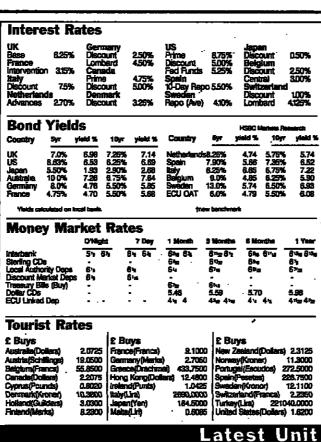
som RAC Club. Robert Fenner of

mula One saga (page 23), news has emerged of another spat involving Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's enigmatic power broker. Bowled over by the success of his new Grand Prix team, Jackie Stewart, former world champion, asked Mr Ecclestone to renegotiate a better slice of television rights. The door, we understand, was firmly closed in his face.

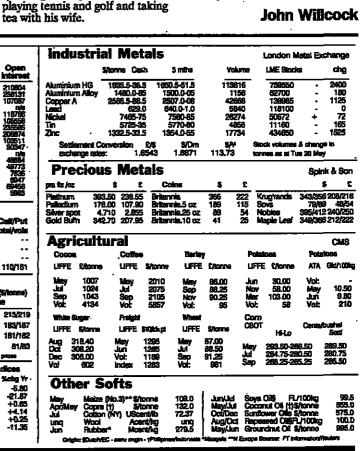
When Mr Stewart arrived for the Monaco Grand Prix he found no space for his motorhome in the team compound and was allocated an inconvenient space away from the other teams near the Royal Palace. When Mr Stewart complained to Mr Ecclestone, back came the response: "You always said you wanted to be near the Royals, so now's your chance."

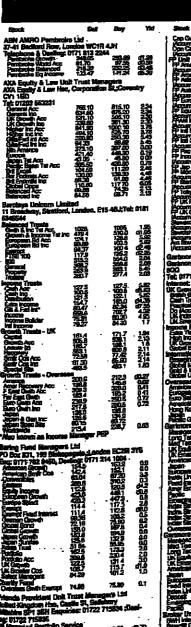
John Willcock

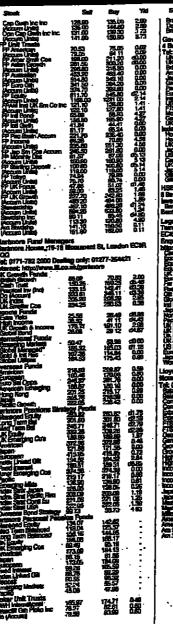


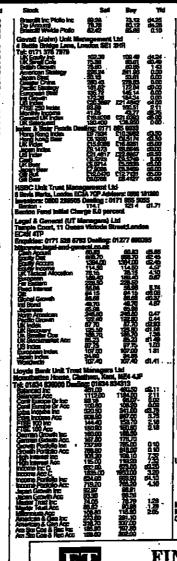


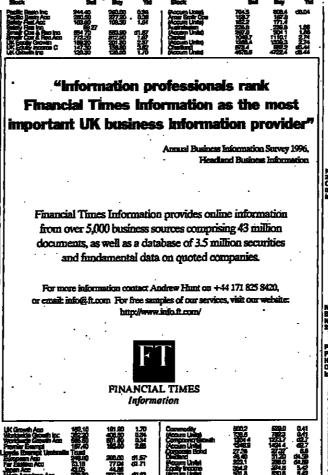
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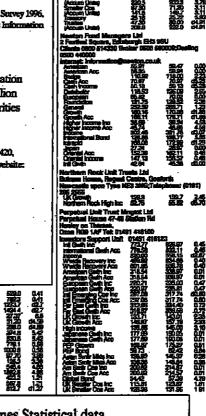


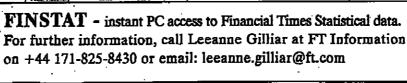


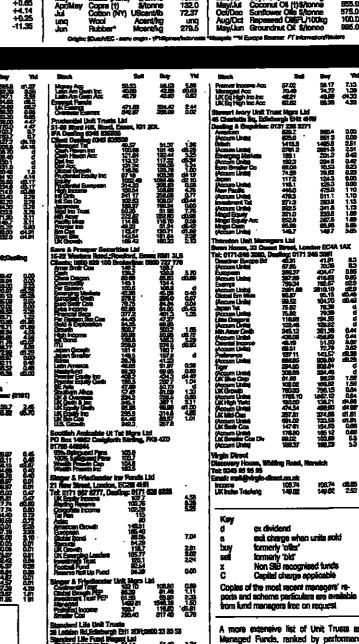












### What we have now is a crisis of vested interest, a bundle of new money but no clear idea of how to spend it sensibly the Croat attacker, Alen Boksic, for whom he made a move lest extracted ideas they put forward died on the Wilkinson's report the roof could whom he made a move lest extract.

If there is one thing to be learned from the past Premier League seasideration either. son it is that very few home-bred footballers can hold their own with the best imported talent. It was mostly foreigners who stopped the show -Gianfranco Zola, Juninho, Dennis Bergkamp, Patrick Vieira, Eric Cantona, Roberto Di Matteo, Peter Schmeichel and, when the mood took him, Faustino Asprilla - who pro-

vided the liveliest entertainment. You can go as far as to say that of the players available to the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, only Alan Shearer and Tony Adams are entitled to be confident of election for a properly assembled Premier League representative XI. Roy Keane would get in and, perhaps. Ryan Giggs, but being Irish and Welsh respectively.

Take last week's FA Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough: players from all sorts of places and not one full England international. No wonder that the Football Association's first technical director, Howard Wilkinson, is pressing for a development structure because as things stand there is unlikely to be much of an improvement.

For example, according to a num-ber of managers in the Premier League there is not much point in casting closer to home: little coming through, transfer fees out of all proportion to ability, the flow of talent from Scotland long since dried up. "We don't look there anymore,"

gests a further influx of overseas players. It is that all but the most important performers in Italian football can now be purchased. "It was astonishing to hear some of the names that were mentioned," said the

Leeds manager, George Graham.

The inherited problems of Thomas Brolin and Tony Yeboah did not deter Graham from making an extensive tour of European football last season. "Even when you allow for the foreigners who haven't done much here there is better value for money overseas," he said. "With the Bosman thing hanging over them even the wealthiest clubs are looking to cash in on the money that is flowing into the Premier League and it won't surprise me if more big



next season."

It seems that Manchester United will enter the transfer market in a big way following Eric Cantona's unexpected retirement. Alex Ferguson's keen eyes are not only on Juninho but whom he made a move last surumer vine. before Juventus stepped in.

More imported players, fresh proof that Wilkinson's blueprint for the future was long overdue. Trouble is that a tradition of fragmented government stands in the way of progress. And having made their own investments, how many clubs are prepared to address the problem on a national basis? Wilkinson's blueprint deserves serious consideration but there have been blueprints before that did not lead to anything. Following one of England's many World Cup disappointments the FA brought together a number of luminaries, including Matt Busby and Joe Mercer, but the

What we have now, I think, is a cri-You can go on and on like this. sis of vested interest, a bundle of new money but no clear idea of how to spend it sensibly. "Salaries have gone through the roof but I don't blame the players for getting all they can." one manager said to me last week at the Football of the Year dinner. "I blame the people who agree their contracts. One of my players asked for £750,000 a year to renew his contract. I told him that he might as well ask for a million because he's not getting it. And what about all these guys who are making a huge profit on their investment in English football?"

I don't know where all this will lead but unless English football responds to the dangers implied by

At a revent coaching conference Wilkinson was told that there are 10 full-sized covered football fields in Finland. A climatic necessity perhaps but nevertheless an impressive aid to development. Terry Venables has been shown marvellous facilities in Australia. "The people who took me around assumed automatically that we have similar advantages. It would have been embarrassing to put them right so I put on my best smile and nodded," he said.

As for a team from the Premier League who could argue against Schmeichel, Bjornebye, Adams, Leboeuf, Petrescu, Keane, Di Matteo, Juninho, Zola, Bergkamp and Shearer. Just two Englishmen.

### **Bowlers to** the rescue for Kent

Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN reports from Horsham Kent 245 Sussex 102-4

The remains of a giant oak tree tower over the scoreboard on the Barrack Field side of this picturesque ground. It died four years ago, but the club was prohibited from taking it down because it was said to be harbouring bats, which are protected under law.

Subsequent investigation es-tablished that no bats had ever existed there; and that is rather to flay the Sussex attack at aplike Kent have been this season. Claims that they have batsmen have proved illusory. They had compiled a paltry two batting bonus points before this game and their coach. John Wright. a distinguished Test batsman for New Zealand, must be a puz-

On paper Kent have the machinery to pile up the runs; in practice, they tend to dig themfor the bowlers to come along with the metaphorical rope ladders. And that is roughly what happened here yesterday.

By the close Sussex were looking a little bit sick themselves after Ben Phillips had whipped out Toby Radford and Neil Lenham for very few and the leg-spinner Paul Strang. having tied down the Railway End, then winkled out Bill Athey and Keith Greenfield. But, unlike Kent, Sussex have not quite rolled over.

15 or so overs as if it were a Sun-

**Yorkshire** 

made to

struggle

Somerset, who were in decent

positions in their previous three

Championship matches before

the weather intervened, suf-

fered a familiar fate at Taunton

yesterday. They had Yorkshire on the rack at 52 for 3, itself an

improvement from 3 for 2 be-

fore play was abandoned for the

Michael Vaughan dropped off

his first delivery of the match.

removed Martyn Moxon for a

he pushed forward to Andy Caddick and gave a routine

Vaughan's reprieve proved momentary as in the next over

Kevin Shine, who had seen

Round-up

dav at 2.30pm.

duck two balls later.

RICHARD WETHERELL

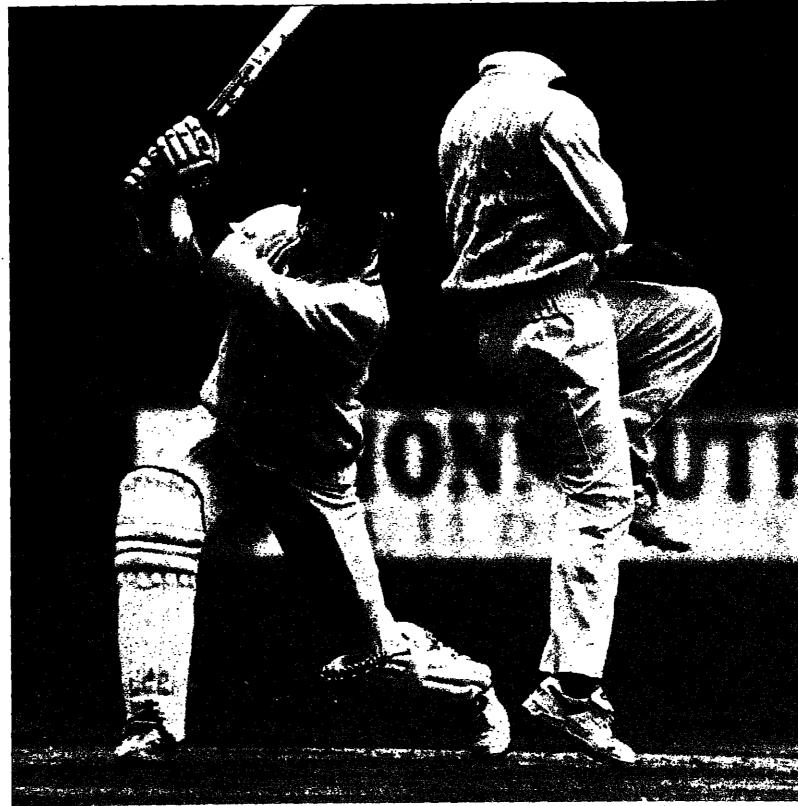
day League match. Kent had a couple of early shocks. Firstly they lost one of their openers, David Fulton, who retired hurt and headed off to the hospital for X-rays on his left forearm after receiving a nasty blow from Paul Jarvis off the second ball of the day (he eventually returned, bruised, to make an unbeaten 35)

Then Matthew Walker departed in the ninth over, by which time he and Trevor Ward had brought up the 50.

Ward, in partnership with the former Sussex captain Alan Wells (who must have dearly wanted to succeed), proceeded proximately six runs an over. Much good it did them. They still finished with only one batting point, because, depleted as the Sussex bowling ranks are. the four who were used stuck to their task, bowling an ideal line and length.

Vasbert Drakes is still nursing a side strain (one of three Sussex bowlers with a similar injury) and was only 80 per cent it perhaps that was part of the secret of his control for a return of three wickets. Jarvis, too, displayed a deal of quality and was rewarded with three

But the pick of the day was Keith Newell, a deceptive medium pacer. It was he who ac-counted for Ward, ending his 85-ball stay - during which he struck a dozen boundaries - by having him caught behind for 67. That was the prelude for a career best 4 for 61 for the 25-year-old as he then ac-Nor have they treated the first counted for Wells, Paul Strang



Matthew Maynard, of Giamorgan, takes evasive action as Matthew Hayden goes on the attack for Hampshire yesterday

disnatch.

#### Saeed smashes one-day record

Saeed Anwar, the Pakistan opener, established a world record in one-day international cricket yesterday, hitting 194 to help his side score 327 for 5 in 50 overs against India in the four-nation Independence Cup in Madras. The 28-year-old left-hander.

playing in Pakistan's last preliminary match of the tournament, surpassed the previous record of 189 established by Viv Richards of the West Indies against England in 1984. Saeed was in such devastat-

ing form that he hit India's leg spinner, Anil Kumble, for 26 runs in one over that included three successive sixes and one

Rameez Raja, the Pakistan captain, decided to bat first after winning the toss and the wicket offered no assistance to India's bowlers.

Saced batted for 206 minutes. most part of it with acute cramps which forced him to use Shahid Afridi as his runner just after he had completed his half Saeed struck 22 fours and five

sixes in reaching 194. His wicket finally fell as he appeared to be heading toward a double century. A mistimed pull off Sachin Tendulkar was caught at fine leg Sauray Ga Indian crowd of 50,000 gave him a standing ovation.

He shared three good partnerships, 89 runs for the second wicket with Rameez (22), 126 for the third wicket with Ijaz Ahmed (39) and 84 runs for the fourth wicket with Inzamam-ul-Haq (39 not out).

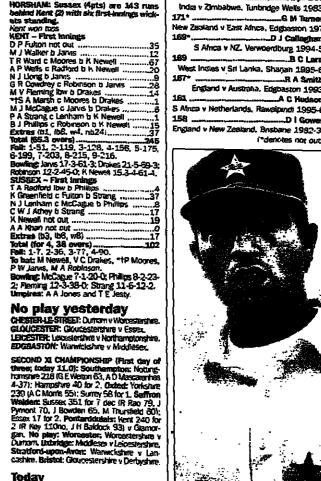
The winner of India-Pakistan match will play against the world champions, Sri Lanka, in the best-of-three final. The four-nation tournament has been organised by India as part of 50th anniversary of its independence. New Zealand lost to Sri Lanka in the first semi-final

which was played on Tuesday. Viv Richard's previous best innings of 189, at Old Trafford in 1984, came off 170 balls, with 24 fours and five sixes, one of which was hit out of the ground.

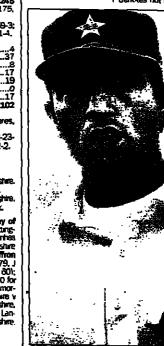
#### **TOP 10 INNINGS** IN ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

Pakistan v India, Madras 1997 West Indies v England, Old Trafford 1984 S Africa v UAF, Rawatoviidi 1995-6

...G M Turner 



Saced Anwar: Stand of 194



### It could be argued that there their run-rate when Kevin Cur-

catch to wicketkeeper Mike When he was on 18 David reports from Trent Bridge Byas shouldered arms to a ball Derbyshire 283-5

by Graham Rose which nipped back and clipped the stumps. What little play that took place at Cardiff was dominated by Hampshire's Matthew Hayden. Before showers and bad light finally brought a close to a much-interrupted day with his many of Nottinghamshire's side on 94 for 1, the Australian cricketers but there is no shortage of heart and ambition opener hit his first Champi-

onship half-century. After losing Giles White, ing the day of hard graft yes-caught at third slip by Steve terday. James off Wagar Younis, Havden and Kevan James made steady progress. Hayden, 54 not out at the close, kept his ter being put in, though this concentration despite several breaks in play and reached his who dropped anchor for some to their task well for the most half-century off 92 balls by dri- four hours and helped to camving Darren Thomas through ouflage events at the other end, mid-off for his fourth boundary. where one batsman after an- their control of length and line just after lunch. But the way he

#### Lancashire are left becalmed at Old Trafford yesterday. England's cause deprived them of More typical of their pon-derous progress was Richard Montgomerie, who stuck

reports from Old Trafford Northamptonshire 281-4

A potentially rewarding open-ing to Lancashire's County Championship season is offering thinner pickings by the day.
A fixture list bringing them into contact with the only three

teams to finish below them in last year's Championship table held out the illusory promise of a flying start.

Rained off against Durham. soundly beaten by Nottinghamshire and now becalmed against Northamptonshire, Lancashire still cannot get air-

The pitches are green again at

Trent Bridge this season. So,

too, it may be argued, are

as Derbyshire discovered dur-

In the end, Derbyshire would

have settled for making the best part of 300, especially af-

owed much to Dean Jones.

v Nottinghamshire

Michael Atherton, John Crawley and Graham Lloyd. while Wasim Akram and their captain, Mike Watkinson, were both

The line-up had a threadbare look to it even before Warren Hegg joined the list of absentees, going off for treatment to a back spasm that had worried him all day and leaving the stand-in captain, Neil Fairbrother, to also deputise behind

the stumps. It was not a day's cricket from which many people would have regretted departing early. Against the depleted Lancashire attack, Northamptonshire ground their way steadily towards a hig total, only lifting

pitch looked more threaten-

ing than it played. The ball did

not move much off the seam

until, for some reason, in

mid-afternoon; it was cer-

tainly too cold for it to swing.

though the occasional uneven

hounce and a sluggish pace

meant that patience and self-

discipline were prime re-

in the field with an inexperi-

enced attack but, perhaps en-

couraged by the knowledge

that Derbyshire's batsmen

were either out of form or less

than fully fit, they did not stick

It was, too, a bleak day to be

quirements.

the first team in any competition this season until yesterday. but he made up for his delayed reappearance from the shadows in terms of quantity, if not alvays of quality. He had a long bowl and sometimes turned the ball

around for almost three and a

half hours for his 49 before be-

coming the second of two vic-

Lancashire's only hopeful pe-

Keedy had not appeared in

riod of a wearing day.

sharply on a wicket that looked sufficiently encouraging for both sides to include two spinners, but also produced from his side in as little apparent hurry the fun is due to start.

wides; but they would also have

been cheered by the efforts of

their 18-year-old fast bowler

Paul Franks, who is clearly a

Even on this pitch he hit the

bat hard and compelled the odd

hurried stroke. He has clearly

been well schooled in the Bas-

setlaw League, where Harold Larwood, Bill Voce and Les

Jackson learned the rudiments

of their trade, though as yet his

6ft 2in frame lacks the muscu-

lar power of that formidable

He was unlucky to emerge

wicketless. Wayne Noon, diving

in front of first slip, which of

genuine talent.

art. course is his prerogative.
Late on in a demanding day dropped Chris Adams off him

and the fall of Montgomerie at slip. Curran announced his artims for Gary Keedy during rival by smiting Keedy for six. Although often deprived of

as Northamptonshire had to

Bailey, caught at short mid-off,

Between his capture of Rob

the strike by his partner. Tony Penberthy, Curran managed to keep the scoreboard moving at a more respectable pace. including hitting one mighty six straight back past Peter Martin. Steve Titchard's occasional

medium pace saw off Penberthy with one that came through even more gently than usual, but Curran, who had survived a sharp caught and bowled chance to Martin on 21, remained undefeated on 91 when mixed bag too many short-pitched deliveries which even a cashire are still wondering when

Jones shores up Derbyshire unsettled Adams probably had much to do with his dismissal other found a way of getting out was often variable and they after getting in. will not want to concede so
As is often the case, the many runs from no balls and

By then Derbyshire's batsunfortunate.

Jones himself probably needs did not always locate the mid-

soon afterwards.

men had embarked on a familiar pattern of digging in and then self destructing. Only Adrian Rollins, meeting a ball from Graeme Archer that might have bounced more than most, could consider himself

time in the middle and made sure he got it, even though he dle of the bat early on and was also obliged to treat Franks with some respect. Vince Clarke leant him solid support in a stand worth 122 in 29 overs before carving at a wide one, whereupon Jones was quick to accept the umpires offer of the

#### Lancashire v Northants OLD TRAFFORD; Northamptonshire (2pts) are 281 for 4 in their first innings

**Britannic Assurance** 

**County Championship** 

Glamorgan v Hampshire CARDIFP: Hampshire (Opts) are 94 for 1 in their first limings against Glamor-

11-0: Dale 1-0-2-0.

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Moms, A Dale, M P Mayman, P A Cobley, G P Butchet, tA D Staw, Wagar Younks, S D Thomas, S L Watlan, D A Cosker, Umptress: J H Harns and R Palmer.

Glamorgan won toss HAMPSHRE – First Innings G W White c James b Waqar M L Hayden not out

Notts v Derbyshire TRENT BRIDGE: Derbyshire (2pts) are 283 for 5 in their first lunings against Nottinghamshire (2).

Nottinghamshire won toss DERBYSHIRE - First Incings K. J. Barnett c. Noon b. Bowen 

Archer, U Atzaal, M P Dowman, K P Evans, tW M Noon, M N Bowen, P J Franks. Umpires: J D Bond and A G T Whitehead.

No play yesterday

Somerset v Yorkshire TAUNTON: Yorkshire (Opts) are 52 for 3 their first innings against Somerset (1).

C L Halloway, R J Harden, S C Ecclestone †M Burns, G D Rose, K A Parsons, Must tag Ahmed, A R Caddick, K J Strute, Umpires: J W Holder and V A Holder.

Sussex v Kent Horsham: Sussex (Agts) are 143 runs behind Kent (2) with six first busings wick-

TORSHARE — First landings
TORNSHARE — First landings
M D Mosan e Bowler b Shine
M P Vaughan e Burns b Caddick
\*\*O Byas b Rose
D S Lethmann not out
A McGrath not out

عندًا من الموصل

yay success. ace claims fo

amelot in Lupe

# bundle of sensibly

### Saeed smashes one-day record

## Camelot wins out in Lupe lottery

RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Goodwood

it was an apposite commentary on the status of the Lupe Stakes as an Oaks trial that yesterday's Listed contest went to a filly that was not only not among the Ep-som entries but running in the race merely to get a handicap mark. Ob, and Maid Of Camelot was also her stable's

second string.

The greatest glory that Roger
Charlton's filly had achieved before yesterday was victory in the racing cauldron that is Bath, the sort of form which allowed her to be sent off at 10-1. If there was little interest in Maid Of Camelot's movement before competition there was unusual attention directed towards another contestant.

Meshhed has earned her place in posterity by kicking Willie Carson into retirement, and the ghouls collected yes-terday to see if Richard Hills could get on her back before he

ended up on his. It was decided that Meshhed should be mounted inside her box and when her trainer, Ben Hanbury, held the door open for Hills, the jockey's countenance suggested he was being helped over the threshold into Hades. Hanbury was rather amused by his confederate's ous, but then she is. However, reticence and half expected a it was Maid Of Camelot who ex-

white feather to come under the stable door. "If Richard ever regain the lead from Priena, saw a fence in front of him I think he'd die," the trainer

Hanbury, Savile Row's greatfirst runner in the Derby next month with Fahris, who has recovered from having a hole drilled in his snout to alleviate a sinus problem. The cost will

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Statoyork (Goodwood 3.10) NB: King Alex (Goodwood 2.40)

receive plenty of vocal support from the press room at Epsom. which is not entirely unconnected to Hanbury's promise to send up a crate of champagne to the scribblers if he is successful Certainly, he has more chances of winning Group races with Fahris that Meshhed.

Meshhed was swiftly out of the stalls yesterday, but immediately restrained as a pace that would have been embarrassingly slow for pallbearers de-veloped. Maid Of Camelot was at the forefront of the crawl, leading into the straight before surrendering her lead, which is and Meshhed looked danger-

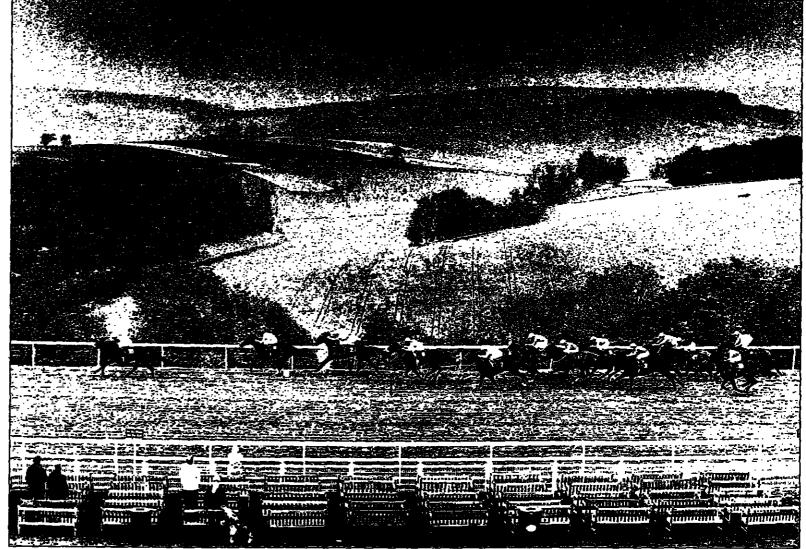
who just held off the winner's stablemate Keyboogie for sec-

"Maid Of Camelot is very idle est friend, expects to have his at home and doesn't do a lot." Roger Charlton, the winning trainer, reported. "Keyboogie would be 10 lengths in front of her. She is not in the Oaks but something like the Ribblesdale [Stakes] should be a natural race

> This was a great victory for the unsung as the winner's part-ner was Tim Sprake, the 29year-old jockey who remains about as fashionable as bootlace ties among the owning fraternity. This is not to say that Sprake cannot ride - a point which is not lost on Charlton. "Tim rides sensibly and well and he certainly doesn't let the side down in hig races," the trainer

More pertinent Classic information yesterday concerned the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the Derby. Peter Chapple-Hyam will now be doubly represemed at the Curragh on Sunday (as will Robert Sangster) following the decision to add Romanov's name to the field. Ladbrokes make him an 8-1 chance and have his more celebrated stablemate Revoque as their 4-5 favourite.

Kieren Fallon, who misses today after damaging a ligament in his arm here, was yesterday



صكنا من الاحل

Field day: St Radegund sets a notable bench mark when winning Goodwood's maiden race for fillies yesterday

confirmed as the Derby partner of Symonds Inn, whose task is to become the first Derby winnet from the North since 1945 and Dante on 7 June.

Jimmy FitzGerald's colt

worked briskly on Tuesday in he might not be 100 per cent typical snob-like manner, with his nose in the air. "That's just his confirmation," FitzGerald said. "People think that just be-

cause he carries his head high

genuine, but they should look at the horse's confirmation before they draw their conclusions. "Symonds Inn walks around with his head in the air almost

as if he is proud of himself. He even stands in his box with his head up." Ladbrokes' odds are 25-1 that Symonds Inn will be looking down on his Derby rivals two weeks on Saturday.

THE OANS (Epsom, 6 June); Corat; evens Reams Of Verse, 8-1 Yashmah, 10-1 Syadan, 14-1 Crown Of Light & Ebadyla; Laddrankes; evens Reams Of Verse, 5-1 Yashmah, 10-1 Syadah, 12-1 Ebadyla, 14-1 Crown Of Light, 16-1 Strawhers Ream; William; 186: 45 Reams Of Verse, 10-1 Syadah, 14-1 Crown Of Light, 16-1 Strawhers Roan, 20-1 Ebadyla & Ukraine Venture.

Photograph: Robert Hallam

#### Stray success as fence claims four

The sort of sickening spectacle that gives animal-rights activists powerful ammunition with which to attack the exploitation of horses by the racing industry occurred when four borses came down at the penultimate fence in the novice chase at Worcester yesterday, writes £934 up for grabs for second John Cobb.

The immediate consequences were the first, and almost certainly the most improbable. winner of Jack Smith's training career when Stray Harmony gained victory at 66-1, and a four-day suspension for the and banned on 30 and 31 May jockey Robert Bellamy for im- and 5 and 6 June. proper riding.

Strav Harm tant fourth when Who Is Abbot last night. Equiname came to the fence in Mark Birch, one of the front in the two-mile, seven-fur-leading jockeys in the North for long contest.

the fence and fell, and was up his boots, aged 48, having swiftly joined on the floor by Careysville, who came down independently. At this stage the the Malton trainer Peter Eastrace looked at the mercy of the erby. They included a Gim-Dream Ride, who jumped the and several notable handicap fence only to be brought down by the writhing body of Who Is ing successive Chester Cups on Equiname.

 $\{ 1, 2, \dots \}$ 

مُثَلِّنَ أَنْ الْمِيسَرِةِ Making the most of her good fortune, Stray Harmony safely negotiated the final two obsta-

the battle, his eyes fixed on the place. But the exhausted grey staggered over the third last, attempted to refuse at the second last and ended up marooned on

The jockey was found guilty

nearly 30 years, has retired Who Is Equiname breasted from the saddle. He has hung ridden around 1,500 winners worldwide, most of them for Nicholson-trained crack Stakes on Sonnen Gold victories, the pick of them bethe great Sea Pigeon.

GOOWGOOD

\$\text{GOODWOOD}\$

2.10:1. ST RADEGUND (M Hills) 3-1 tav;
2. Bluevigness 20-1; 3. Doyelis, 8-1. 16 ras.
24. %. (G Wriegs, Newmarison) Torbe: £4.80;
£2.00, £4.70, £2.30, DF: £65.40, CSF;
£85.62. Wriz: £114.60. NR: Regal Academy,
2.40:1. OSEI (R Cochemnel 11-1: 2. Str
Jony 6-1; 3. Sea-Deer 5-1 fav; 4. Warning
Times 33-1. 19 ras. 1%, sin-th. (P Makin,
Ogbourne Massey). Torbe: £10.50; £2.20.
£1.80, £1.50, £9.10. DF: £31.60. CSF;
£64.81. Massey). Torbe: £10.50; £2.20.
£1.80, £1.50, £9.10. DF: £31.60. CSF;
£64.81. Massey). Torbe: £10.50; £2.20. NR:
For The Present.
3.10: 1. MAND OF CAMELOT (T Societ) 101: 2. Prieme 7-1; 3. Keyboogle 3-1. 7 ras.
9-4 faw Meschad (410). 1%, Ind. (R Charlion,
Beckrampton), Torbe: £10.80; £3.30, £3.30.
DF: £32.80. CSF: £55.31. NR: Shoul.
3.40: 1. JITUSH (R Hile) 11-1; 2. Bahamhan Suoshine 8-1; 3. Air Quest 8-1. 9
rat. 3-1 tav-General Assembly, 3. ¼. (E Danlog, Newmarket). Torbe: £15.50; £3.40,
£2.50, £3.20. DF: £79.50. CSF; £863.5. Thcst: £683.63, Troc: £258.60.
4.10: 1. HURTLEBEIRTY (I. Desnot) 7-1;
2. Orange Place 8-1; R-fay; 3. Khalhang 6-1
[-far; 4. Judicial Supremocy 7-1. 17 ran.
-¼. ½. (Lord Huntingson, West fisley), Torbe:
£5.80; £1.50, £1.60, £3.00, £2.20. DF:
£10.50, CSF: £44.24, Traces: £262.34. Tric:
£28.30. NR: Thrashmaster. After a stewards inquiry, placings unleibred.
4.65: 1. SMADOW OF DOUBT (J Red) 5-6

120.3, Nr.: Installment in the industry placings unleibred.
4.45: 1. SHADOW OF DOUBT (/ Red) 5-6
for, 2. Amengio 2-1; 3. Indian Missalle 13-2.
8 zm. Nr. 5. (P. Crapple Hyart, Marter). Total
22.40: £1.40, £1.20; £1.60, DF 22.10, CSF
£2.45: Tno: £2.50. NR: Solo Spirit. Hadipot: Not won. Pool of £4,851.99 car-fied forward to Goodcood today. Placepot: £695.20. Quadpot: £70.80. Place 6: £750.10. Place 5: £264.33.

2.30: 1. HEAVERLY ABSTONE () F Egan)
11:2; 2. One Singer 7-4 jn-fax; 3. Vice Presidential 7-4 jn-fax; 7-4 jn-fax; 12. (P D Evens, Weisthood), Toker 59. (D); 62.90, 61.10. (D); 7.00, CSF: 611.99. 3.00: 1. RICH GLOW (S Drowne) 11-2-2. 3.00: L Rich (\$LOW (\$ Drower) 17-22-Soretaid 3-1 n-feet 3. Must Belb 3-1 n-feet 9 ran. 4, 3/4. (N Bycroft, Brandsty). Toba: 15.10; £1.20, £1.70, £1.30. DF. £11.20. CSF. £19.98. Tricast £52.98. Trice £9.00. 3.30: 1 GOOD DAY (Dean McKeoard) 15-8; 2. Searer & Deensel 11-2; 3. Nutual 7-1. 4 ran. 6-4 by Instant Symphoty (Att). 25, des. £C Thompton, Mcdieham). Totas: £2.90. DF. \$5.50. CCS £0.12 28.80, CSF, £9.12,

\* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES PRIMES

cles to finish alone. Bellamy, who had pulled up Kellytino at the fourth fence from home, decided to rejoin

top of the fence.

by stewards of improper riding

Martin Pipe secured his also achieving her first success when Nordic Breeze cruised at the age of seven, was a dis- home at odds-on at Newton

#### RACING RESULTS

£3.90; £2.50, £1.10, DF, £4.50, CSP, £8.04, 4.30; 1. BEA'S RUBY (I Wester) 10-11 fax; 2. Brave Montgomerie 10-1; 3. Right Time 8-1, 5 ran, 6, 8, (A Balley, Terporley). Tota: £1.50; £1.90, £2.20, DF, £4.10, CSF; 60.60 5.05: 1. BRANDONVILLE (Dean Mc/eour) 5.05:1 BRANDOWNIE (Dean McCoun)
25.1:2 Superpride 14-1; 3. Trab Stages
14-1; 4. Termon 25-1, 18 ran. 6-1 prins
Segebrush Roller, Zalotto. 24, 1/- (N Trikler, Malbru). Totae: £71.00; £37.20, £3.20,
£6.10, £6.90. DF: £324.60. CSF: £326.59.
Thosa: £4,738.42. Trac: £497.40.
Placepot: £509.80. Quadqut: £322.00.
Place 6: £108.38. Place 5: £56.37.

WORCESTER 2.20: 1. MELT THE CLOUDS (A P McCoy) 11-5 (av. 2. Maximus 15-5; 3. Sentinal Cape 16-1, 5 ran. 17, 6. IM Pipe). Total: £1.40: £1.20; £1.10. DF; £1.10. CSF; £3.64. NR:

£1.20; £1.10. OF: £1.10. GSP: £3.04. AmSpencer Statione.
2.50; £ [ÆLLO ME MAN (Mr.) £ Liewellyn)
4-1; 2. Lypberd's Fable B-1; 3. Prime Of
Life 9-1. 10 ram, 7-2 fav Villing Dream. 4,
16. (B. Liewellyn). Tote: £4.10; £1.60,
£3.20; £4.90. DF: £13.50. GSP: £39.56. Isicast £23.1.9. Trie: £48.20. NRS; Genarius,
Molike Silvers, Sigus To Speak.
3.20; £1.06573N DFESTRUVAL (R.Johnson)
9.13 tan; 2. Whaled 6-4; 3. Little-Nipper

Mode Series, Sour to Speak.

3.20: 1. DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL (R Johnson)
8-13 iev; 2. Winnidi 6-4; 3. Little-Mipper
20-1. 4 rem. 11, 20. (D Nerholson). Totae
51.40. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.91.
3.50: 1. STAY WITH ME (J Osborne) 6-5
iev; 2. Cleasic Pal 5-1; 3. Delly Sport Girl
7-2. 5 ran. 6, 374. (C Egenon). Totae
£1.80: £1.10. £2.10. DF: £2.80. CSF.
£6.60. NRs: Above The Cut, Freser Carey.
4.20: 1. STRAY HARMONY (T J Murphy)
63-1.8 ran (ere Smithed). (R Smith). Totae
£88.10: £20.30. DF: £18.40. CSF: £60.97.
NR: Westone Led. CSF declared with any other
forms. Tric: winner with any other £5.40.
4.55: 1. LEWISDON MANOR (J Osborne) 9-1; 2. The Villings Way 8-11 tax; 3.
Kerny's Gats 20-1. 13 ran. 1, 5. (P Webberl. Totae £10.60; £1.90. £1.50. £8.60.
DF: £7.30. CSF: £14.81. Tric: £140.60. NR:

DF: £7.30. CSF: £14.81. Tric: £140.60. NR:

NEWTON ABBOT 6.10: 1. JENZSOFH (G Torney) 9-4; 2. Peter Monancy 5-2; 3. Defendithersalm 6-4 fav. 4 ran. Nic. (Iss. (P Hobbs). Total: £3.20. tov. 4 ran. Nr. (dst. (P Hobbs). Tobar 53.20. DF: 53.00. CSP: 57.23. 6.40: 1. BMZZ O'THE, CROWNO NAT D Aleas-Horten): 1.41; 2. Fight To Win 50-1; 3. Tour's Germin Star 25-1. 11 ran. 1-3 fav Pries Too Touchy. Dist. 11. (1885 A Handes). Totac 513.70: £160, £5.40, £5.30. DF. £109.30. CSF: £465.63. Táo: £225.60. 7.10: 1. NORROE BREEZE (A. P. McCoy) 2.11 fav; 2. Spartding Back 10-1; 3. Tech-sical Move 100-1. 8 ran. 1/4, 21. (M Proc.) Toba: £1.30: £1.20, £1.60. DF: £2.70. CSP: £2,62.

UTTOXETER

## TUNCH LEN

## 425:1. SANELE SOLINGING OLDINA 8-1;

2. Bowlin Jonino 6-1; 3. Tunidjar 4-6 fav. 8

## 70. 34, 7. (Mass H Kright). Tota: \$7.30;

## 51.30, £1.30, £1.30. DF: £24.60. CSP.

## 57.63. Thri: £12.30.

## 57.63. Thri: £12.30.

## 57.63. Thri: £12.30.

## 57.63. Tunidjar A Mass

## 100.30. 8 ran. 1%, 9. £ Lunga, Tota: £53.30;

## 51.60, £1.50, £1.70. DF: £10.00. GSP.

## 525.63. Tricast: £67.23.

#### GOODWOOD HYPERION 3.40 Valedictory 4.10 MISS RIVIERA (nap) 2.10 Liquid Gold 2.40 Prince Of Andros 3.10 My Best Valentine 4.45 Stolen Kiss

GOING: Good to Soft.

STALLS: Straight course – stands side; round course – inside (except 1m4f – outside).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: fligh best for 6f, 7f to 10f.

Right-hand course with sharp heads and gradlents.

Resecourse is north of Chichester between A2% and A285. Chichester railway station (London Victoria) is 4.5 miles away. ADBUSSION: Richmond Enclosure \$16, Gordon Enclosure \$10 (over-tips \$51), Public Enclosure \$5 (neer 6fs \$3). CAR PARE: \$2; free

Enclosure S.10 (over-15x S5), Public Enclosure S5 (over 6fs S3). CAR PARE: S2; free parking available.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R Hamon — 34 winners from S23 runners gives a success state of 10.5% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$71.81; M Stoute — 23 winners, 25 runners, 25.4%, + \$38.02; J Danlop — 18 winners, 184 runners, 11.4%, - \$82.32; H Cecli — 15 winners, 75 runners, 20.4%, - \$12.11.

LEADING JOCKEYS: T Quinn — 44 winners, 258 rides, 17.1%, -\$16.16; Part Eddery — 35 winners, 187 rides, 18.7%, -\$23.28; J Reld — 22 winners, 210 rides, 14.6%, -\$24.27; L Dectori — 29 winners, 163 rides, 17.8%, -\$21.52.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTAINCE RUNNERS: Albert The Bear [3.10) has been sent 274 miles by J Berry from Cockerbam, Lancashire; Scalen Kiss (4.15) sent 265 miles by M W Easterby from Sher-iff Hatton, North Yorkshire; Grey Kingdom (3.10) sent by M Brittain from Warthill, North Yorkshire.

You	shire.	<del></del>	
2	10	A & J BULL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5 1m 1f Penalty Value £3,753	i,000 added 3Y0
11	00	BEHIND THE SCENES (18) IR M Cyash C Cyair 9 0	
l 2		CHANGOLER'S HALL SIr Peter Cazalet) M Heggon-Stis 9 0	
łз		HALAVADREAM (Seofrey Seymour) M Bokun 9 0	
14		LIQUID GOLD IN S York W O'Gormen 9 O	Brance O'Gontton 3
<b>l</b> 5		DAZLA'S DOUBLE (Winterfields Farm Ltd) R Rose 8.9	
S B	D	GOOD REPUTATION (33) (R E Sangater) B Halls 8 9	
7	0-	MASHKORAH (USA) (212) (Mohamed Suhai) R Hannon 8 9	
l 8	-	ROCKY DANCE (FR) (I. Fust) A Janes 89	
ğ	0-0	SANENSTONES (17) (R and A Caddodu N Graham 8 9	
I -		- 9 riardami -	

BETTING: 5-2 Good Reputation, 9-2 Politing The Scanes, 13-2 Ungifd Gold, 9-1 Michigarah, 8-1 Standstones, 10-1 Chandler's Half, 12-1 Dade's Double, Rocky Donce, 25-1 Helevadrenss 1998: North Song 3 9 0 L Dettoi 13-8 fav (J Gooden) drawn (4) 7 cm

FORM GUIDE There is virtually no form on show here so SANDYSTONES can be only a tentative choice. The stable had a winner at Newbury on Santrasy and Sandystones, who showed a glariner of ability on her only juvenile start, will be satisfying for her Kenstion outing behind not favourite Zalitzine. Frenkle Deston and Charles Cyser team up again after their winner at Beth on Monday and Behind The Scentes has so for falled to live up to his pedigree, the colt being a son of Kris out of Free Guest. Tasled off in the Wood Ditton Stalles and also at Chester, he event up to his pedigree, the colt being a son of Kris out of Free Guest. Tasled off in the Wood Ditton Stalles and also at Chester, he event up to his forthus. Sond Benndartion is related in a now decrease were sentended. son of Kris out of Frice Guest. Tealed off in the Wood parton stames and also as unstate, in might just do better today, Good Reputation is related to some decent winners and she can only do better after showing very little at Newbury, a remark which also applies to Richard Harmon's Meshkorah after a beckend run at Chepstow. Rockly Damoe was a lote withdrawal from a race at Sendown lest morth, write Lloydd Gold should handle the ground being a son of Fairy King.

		<b>240</b>	ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT FESTIVAL STAKES £20,000 added 1m 2f Penaity Value £14,620	(CLASS A
	ŀ¦−		CAPTAIN HORATIUS (52) (CD) (D R Hurriset)   Dunico 8 9 1	
	2		MEDALLE MULTIMRE (194) (D) (James Hartred)   Dunio 5 9 1	
]	3	1401-4	PRINCE OF ANDROS (USA) (19) (D) (Dr Sim Dung Wing) C Wal 7 9 1	Reid 4
	4		PROPER BLUE (ISA) (33) (0) (M J Leggs) T Mals 4 9 1	
1	6		BROCHSTONE (222) (Ms C M Potend) D Essorit 48 12	
	7	540-21	GERMANO (19) (O) (Berott G vort Ulimand) G World 4 8 12	M HESS &
Ė	8		10MB ALEX (11) (0) (W Said) R Charless 4 8 12	
.1	10		LONELY LEADER (17) (Salem Submill R Hannon 48 12 BALL BOWN (B) (C) (C) (C) (T) (T) (T) (T)	
1	_		- 10 declared -	
	BET	7NO: 3-1	Kiest Alex, 9-2 Medalle Militaire, 6-1 Genume, 13-2 Cantain Horaties	. 7-1 Prince 0

1996: Cantain Horatius 7 9 1 T Quinn 4-1 () Dunlop) depen (4) 6 ran

This is ultra-competitive with promising youngsters such as GERMANO and King Alex taking on some bettle-hardened male. Germano and King Alex have both found Dr Massiri too good, and preference is for Geoff Wrage's colt, who is gradually get his act together after strowing juvenile promise. Germano followed his Magnolia Stakes second with a very easy win from Forest Buck at Newmarket. This will be a lot totaget, we have still to see the best of him. King Alex was a Derby fancy last year after his second to Dr Massiri at York, but had to miss the race though lameness. He had a very easy test at Bath on his responsarince, but he ortised home and looks bound to hold his own in this house company. Capitalia Horistian best Wijara in this race last year and this is more his ground after this highly about thee lengths behind Germano at Kempton. This tough son is a bit threat yordey, John Dunresults bear what in this face leaf year and this is more his ground after hissing about three lengths behind Germano at Kempton. This tough sort is a big threat today, John Dunlop also runs Medialile Militabine, who came good leaf backend at Yarmouth and Doncaster after an injury. Prince Of Andros is 11th better off with Germano for the eight-length behing at Newtontet. He will improve for that dan. Proper Blue improved a bundle list backend and may have found 12 turiongs too far at Newtony last time. He was only two lengths behind Germano in the Dr Massiril race at Kempton, and he will like this ground. Australia Ajeeb has still to war away from handcap company, but this looks his trip nowedays after two good must this term over shorter. Lonely Leader is trying a new mp effections GERMANO.

#### 2 10 KIDSONS IMPEY TROPHY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000

Ŀ	رسد	added 7f Penalty Value £9,552
1	50-440	MY BEST YALEHTINE (14) (D) (the Valentines) J Whee 7 10 0
2	31122	DANICHE MASE (283) (8F) (The Ouser)   Balding 4 9 10 L Detter!
3	253-31	ALBERT THE BEAR (14) (D) (Chrs Deuters J Berry 4 9 9
4	0.7-0	SANDABAR (19) (0) (Shekh Mohammed) M Strute 4 9 9 Reld
5	1-2140	CAM BOM BOM (27) (D) (Yucal Bird) M Bell 5 9 0
6	0-0120	NOODBELEENGEGEE (21) (CD) (GP) (Anthony Andrews) M Chamnon 7 9 0
7	42-006	STOPPES BROW (8) (CD) (C ) Pennicki G L Nicoce 5 9 0
8	35200	WLD PALM (229) (D) (S Fustal) W O'Gorman 5 8 11Emain O'Gorman 13 3
9	85016	SHARP TH SMART (20) (D) (K H Burks) B Smart 5 8 8
.10	6141-6	MOVE WITH EDES (13) (D) (W Ede & Co Partnershot) W G M Turner 5 8 8 T Sprake 1
11	120311	GADGE (11) (J B Wilcox) A Boiley 6 8 5
12		STATIONORY, (48) (DI) (SET) (Seymour Cohn) (3 Miles 4 8 4 D. Yestiand)
13	-65003	Senders 1 (12) (0) (0) (1) Wight W Jave 583
14	00000-0	NO EXTRAS (30) (G) (K Haster) G L Moore 78 3
15	-31131	SREY KINGDOM (20) (D) (M Britan) M Britan 5 8 1
16	020/41	RESIST THE FORCE (8) (Mrs Barbara Hogani C Oper 7 8 1 (7ex)
		- 16 declared -

BETTRIC: 9-2 Garige, 7-1 Sandeher, 15-2 Knobbbennesse, 8-1 Athert The Besr, 9-1 Stoppes Brow, 10-1 Resist The Force, Statopork, 11-1 Clim Born Born, 12-1 Dancing Image, 14-1 Mr Fronty, My Best Valentine, 18-1 Grey Magdom, 20-1 Sharp W Smart, 25-1 others 1996: Crange Place 5 8 11 T Quern 12-1 (T J Naughton) drawn (8) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE
STOPPES BROW will like the ground riswing bester Bajan Rose in the soft at Newbury (65) a year ago. Stoppes Brow is a winner over this course and distance and improvement is likeon his recent all-weather form. He was apprentice-noden with a weiter burden when shift o Realist The Force at Lingfield, and he meets this mel on 1910 better terms. Albert Tie to Realist The Force at Linglield, and he meets this meet on 15th better terms. Albert Title Bear looks a threat even though he has a low draw to ovarcome. Jack Berry has his team in top form and Albert The Bear showed his gift when plugging through heavy gound as Chester to beat Knobbleeneeze by three lengths with My Beart Vetenthne tailed off. Albert The Bear might lust be gibt enough to beat Knobbleeneeze again on 6th viosa terms, phough Mck Charnon's charge is back over his best true with Richard Hughes taking over from the claimer after an unplaced run over a mile at Beath. That Beath race was won by Geodge, who is on the top of his form and a gelding who likes this ground. Gedge has gone up an extra 5th, but he should again be in the thick of trings from a good draw. Sendation's the derik horse in the race after a return to action at Newmenfast (6f) 12 days ago. His win at Folkestone a year ago was over today's firm and improvement thois assured. Statioques has dropped sharply down the ratings and has a tempting took after his Lingfield fourth to Bathason, but it is best to hold fire on the all-weather performer Clas Boar Boar, Gray Kingdom has been in great form, but he has conseiting to prove off the much higher rating and he has stall one to overcome. Pancing lavage is without a recent run, but he progressed less sesson and is well enough handicapped with Albert The Bear on his second to Green Berties on this course.

	-		
3	.40	BOOKER FOODSERVICE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,0 1m 4f Penalty Value £7,310	00 adde
1	3154-1	VALEDICTORY (LB) (D) (Lord Housed De Walder) H Cacil 4 10 0	"R Hosbes 9
2	64/12-	HRAMOURLESS (\$73) (BF) (Shelifi Mohammed) L Cuman 4 9 11	L Detion 8
3		HOM EXPRESS (19) (O F Alport) I Balding 5 9 3	
4	1/650-	CAPTHAY'S GUEST (215) (C) (in The Frame Reging Club) Mis A Penent 7.9.1.	
5 .	32100	TRANSON (USA) (750) (D) (Sermor Colvi) Mrs A Penett E-9 0	Reig 6
6.	446,1	MR WILD (USA) (17) (D) (A D Spence) R Aleburst 4 8 13	ـــــT Quine 2
7	3604-1	PRINCE KINSKY (25) (D) (Mrs Anne Bidrel) J (M 4 8 11	D Hantyon (
8	0600-6	MY LEARNED PRIEMO (18) (C) (D) (Mrs J Roberts) A Huk 6 8 10	A McGlone 3
9		SLP JG (14) (D) (New Shelds) K Bunde 4 8 8,	

BETTON: 9-4 Valedictory, 4-1 Humonices, 9-2 Prince Kinely, 1 10-1 SIp Jig, 16-1 Holt Express, 20-1 others 1998: Tapen 4 10 0 L Detton 7-2 fav U Duniop) drawn (81 9 sm

MR WILD, getting 15th, mirst have a good chance of beating Valedictory. A maden with Ben Hanbury, Mr Wild was fit from hundling when genrely beating Atlantic Miss at Kempton 17 days ago. Reg Alekturst now pits him in a stronger race off the 8th higher mark, but Mr Wild could be up to the task. Valedictory has 10st to shoulder after a hard-fought win from Nobhasin at Newmarket. He drifted left under pressure and has a changed inder in the heavier Richard Hughes. Valedictory was promising before his injury last term and could well be capable of further improvement. Mr Learned Friend has dropped down the ratings and was a pleasing shift to Valedictory at headquarters. But there is a doubt whether he has retained the ability to close the gap with the 5th pult. Hussionless has been waiting for this better ground after being jarred up on the firm at York a year ego when a fine second to Dombey. Prince Klastry may find this tougher after beating Lingent Swift at Epsom, while Stip Jig makes imitted appeal despite showing up well behind The Butterwork kild at Chester.

4.	LO	RUINART CHAMPAGNE CONQUEROR STAKES (CLASS A) £18,500 added 1m Penalty Value £11,954
. 0		BALALABIA (20) (Holene Springlicki Lich L Curnari 4 9 3
1	008 1	LOLLI CLARE (LE) (C) (C) (C) (Seein) A Fours 490
3 3	332-6	MISS RIVERA (26) U.L.C. Pearse) G Waste 4 9 0
: 4	443-2	TSARMISTA (20) (I H Stevent-Brown) J Dunico 4 9 0 J Reid 8
50	-1561	SUPERCAL (12) (The Catedonian Record Scorety) D Bayorth 3 8 5
3 1	640-6	BLANE WATER (USA) (54) (C   1 Racing Ltd) J Panshawa 3 8 2 D Hamison 7
7 1	630-4	GRETEL (6) (Shelih Mohammed) M Stoute 3 8 2
3		JAFN (20) (Harrdan Al Maldoum) B Hanbury 3 8 2
•	14-	OUT WEST (USA) (253) (8F) (Buckram Oak Holdings) H Cecl 3 8 2 A McGlose 6
		- 9 declared -

BETTING 100-30 Balchika. 9-2 Out West, 5-1 lifes fibilises, 11-2 Supercel, 6-1 Tsternista, 7-1 Gre tel, 11-1 Jule, 12-1 Life Claire, 14-1 Stone Water

(7f) 12 days ago, and looks sure to appreciate loday's extra furlong. Supercal will ancounter similar ground here and her fifth to Dence Peradie in the Fred Derling at Newbury was also a promising effort. Balahaka has the 3to peralty for her based race with from Taamstat at Newmarket three weeks ago. She will like this ground more, as will "samstat to offset her lack of finishing pace. Miss Riviesa was consistent enough last season, but just lacked the necessary foot in a finish. Whether she comes on for her Lecaster run behind Waard King, where she putied too hard, remains to be seen. Greber needs to do a lot better than at Newbury (well besten last of four to Yashmalo, though her jovenila form was top-notch stoff. Out West was against the colts at Doncaster after her debut win at Beverley. She wants this male after that fourth to Bermy The Dip, while Jahn has more on her plate efferts and her her debut with at a freshelder one. Not

#### 4.45 RACING CHANNEL APPRIENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 5f Penalty Value £3,485 00-552 WILLOW DALE (13) (0) (89) (Michael Jackson Bloodshook) D Elsworth 4 9 13. 12236- ANOTHER BATCHMORTH (166) (D) (D Prop. C Wakefeld, C O'Toole) E Wheeler 5 9 13...

Geoff Wragg's apprentice Gary Milligen won on his gamon's Fabled Light at Rigon on Setur-day, and has been snepped by Mark Flower for HALF TONE, who can win this on his Sandown success lest seeson from Squire Come and Gone Savage. Body drawn at Lingfield lest time and now with a 4th pull, Helf Tone could reverse the form with the obvious design. Willow Date, who came home in second to runaway winner Rurs in The Family. Another Batch-worth is fest and will be suited to the course. She is preferred to the well handicapped Stolem When and Exhibit Section (hotsed down in the Ground at Chastella, Salesthor: Half Tone

### HYPERION

2.20 Jewel Thief 2.50 Wixne Wonder 3.20 Faustino 3.50 Santella Boy (nb) 4.20 Kingswood Manor 4.55 Connaught's Pride

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Eight-hand, undataing course. Stiff test of standard. Run-in 25 Cycle.

Course is 5m SW of Except on ASS. ADMINSTON: Grandstand
& Paddock 5.10; Silver Bing 55 (accompanied studer-16a free).

CAR PARE: 23 on rails; 52 members; restainder free.

SHIPMERSO FIRST THE COURT BY VOICE (\$2.50); MOREOUS (\$2.50); WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE KINNERS: Brimpton Bertle (\$2.50) sen 161
nifest by Otispoel from Puborough, Wiseers, Storntinetter (\$2.50)
sent 157 miles by C Weedon from Chitchingfold, Sarrey.

n	SIMPKINS EDWARDS SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 2f	
~	(CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 2f	
1032	BAYERD (17) C Egeton 6 11 6	
1900	SENIEL THEF (19) & Balding 7 11 D A P McCoy V	
621	MENURATE (20) A Hobbs 7 11 0	•
484	OCTOBER BREW (20) (CD 69) M Pos 7 11 (L. & Supple (5) V	
220	施設 7担 (明 (日) M Pipe 5 11 0	
P13	EMAR BOLD (22) K Currington-Brown 4 10 9	
2004	GREFRY'S GRIL (27) N AME 5 10 9	

8 U4 LANY CALLETONISH (509 H Day 7 10 9 Mer S Dat 9 P7 Managolia (189) K Betrop 5 10 9 Mer S Dat 10 P6 Managolia (5) A Holdes 4 10 9 R 630422 PAULTON (31) K Belton 4 10 9 R Deservooly 8 UF-255 POWNER WOMEN (8) T Neethern 7 10 9 Aft J Texand (7) - 12 declared ara, Papiton, 6-1 Red Tel, Exar Bold, 8-

250 CORPORATE SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,550 2m 3f 110yds 132202 COOLITEN HERO (22) (CD) R Alber 7 11 10 ..... ACP-PP DESERT RUN (117) PROJECT 9 11 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ S Burrough 033F11 BLAZER MORNWERE (FR (17) (D) P Rishers 8 11 9 ... S Fox 422132 BER PLAYFULL (17) (G) R Foot 7 11 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Front 

- 12 declared -BETTIME: 7-2 floots M All, 9-2 litazer Modelure, 6-1 Coolinea Hero, No Playfulf, 13-2 Witte Wooder, 8-1 Coart Master, William, 13-1 others

3.20 PUTTING BUSINESS FIRST HCAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 2m 3f 110yds

-5 declared EETTING: 5-2 Aft. Cheanmaithe, 11-4 Feastlee, 3-1 Burkeging Sem, 5-1
Storm Dust, 6-1 Ster Performer 3.50 ES LITIGATION SUPPORT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds

(PSASE JUNIO CHOULENER (LT) (SEY K FIDE ID 11 10 - PRINC FISH (F) (SSAB LET PERRANGE (LS) A BARROW 12 11 (0 - Mr O Marchald (7) 6R WOTHYCOMME MAL (LOS) P Hobbs 7 11 (0 - Mr R Wadger (7) 28422P GLERNAMBER (MR. [12) M Page 7 (1) 9 - M P MicCoy V 3/P-22 KING CRYSTOLL (ST) (C) A Hobbs 8 10 9 - R Greate 1142F4 SANTISLA BOY (RS) (LT) C Mart 15 10 7 - R Dermoodly B ... 9 deciared -BETTING: 11-4 Stormpacker, 3-1 Santula Boy, 7-2 Halkopous, 8-1 Slan-gurff Girl, 7-1 Kird Crystal, 12-1 Juries Chardeigh, 14-1 others

4.20 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,450 3m 2f 0.400P JOBSAGOCOUN (26) N Henderson 6 11 8 ...... N A Flore 

Alintrum: 10s. True weights: Morecen Spr 12th. Hidden Flower Sci 11h. BETTING: 7-2 Piper's Resk, 9-2 Kingswood Masor, 6-1 Aculer Ratis, 7-1 Vollinguis, China Mail, 10-1 Est de Francis, Spirit Level, 14-1 others

4.55 SELF ASSESSMENT NOVICE HYCAP HUR-DILE (CLASS E) £2,925 2m 3f 110yds 1 20FP23 SERVIX TO SPERK (129) Mass H Whight 5 11 10...

200732 REEAL GEM (13) C R Barwell 6 11 7 ..... 028405 SAAFI (15) R Baker 6 10 6 ... \_V Stattery

Historium weight: 10st. True handisch weight: Up The Tempo Bet 12to. BETTRHE 4-1 Sejectucker, 5-1 Regel Gam, 6-1 Shout Po Speak, Communistra Prida, 7-1 Semenutz, Carstell Cloves, 8-1 Lord Witrogen, 10-1 others

#### HYPERION 2.30 Branston Berry 3.00 Shaffishayes 3.30 Lord Smith 4.00 Memorise 4.30 Lady Sheriff 5.05

on round course.

Left-hand, oval course; tough, galloping track.

Course is on A1, 5m N of town. Metro service to Four Lane Ends station from Newcoole milwing station. Bus service from there.

ADMESSION: Carb 512 (\$10 for OAPs and registered disabled); Tamersuls 59 (\$7 for OAPs and registered disabled); Tamersuls 59 (\$7 for OAPs and registered disabled); There is the summer of LONG-DISTANCE ECONNESS: Esbalas 1(400) has been sent 343 miles by J Daniso from Arandel, W Sussex; Prince Foley (2.30) & Lord Sinth (3.30) sent 329 miles by W G M Turner from Corton Debham, Somersex; Frigareira (3.30) & Cariton (5.06) sent 311 miles by G Lewis from Headley, Surrey.

2.30 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,350 270 5f 

SETTING 4-1 Octob Verds, 9-2 Prince Febry, 5-1 Princ Stor, Remotion Berry, 6-1 Angel Hill, 8-1 Poetto, 10-1 Frinky Lasty, 25-1 others 3.00 RAMSDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP

(CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 4f 93yds 0-0045 EAGLE CANYON (14) (D) 8 Harbury 4.9 11 W Room 1 20-323 SHAFFISHINES (16) (BF) Mrs M Renday 5.9 4 2 ACCCS STREET-STATES (10) GD; NOT NO FORCED S S 9 4. Dean McKeoten 4
3 -36211 BABY JAME (20) (D) 8 McCagget 3 8 3 \_\_\_\_ P Rinemained 2
4 0-0656 LORD HASTIE (15) (60) C Tromps 9 7 10, \_\_\_\_\_ J Quiam 3
- A declared BETURE: 6-4 Buby Jane, 7-4 Statifishniyes, 9-2 Engle Carryon, 7-1 Lord

3.30 TT CERTAINLY BEATS WORKING CLAIM-ING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 2YO 6F 60 ARM AND A LEG (25) C Daver 9 D...

245 LORD SMITH 240 W G M Turner 8 10 \_\_\_\_ D MeG 26 MOSS SIDE NIONEY (10) J Berry 8 10 \_\_\_\_ G 16 FLASH D'ON ES M W Essierly 8 9 \_\_\_\_ K BRU DANCE C BOOM 8 6 \_\_\_\_ K H 5 FIGAMEN (10) G Lovic 8 6 \_\_\_\_ Paul (140 DIAMOND STEVE (10) N Timble 8 4 \_\_\_\_ Ris Times 10 BETTRIC: 11-4 Swoosh, 4-1 Lord Smith, 7-1 Figuria, 8-1 Fissh D'Or, My Bet, 10-1 Ann And A Log, Noos Side Munkey, 14-1 others 4.00 JAMES FLETCHER MARQUEES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 3YO 1m 2f 32/ds DOWN HEARTED W Kerns 9 O. # Ryan 1 - 6 declared - BETTING: 7-4 Estimal, 15-8 Memories, 3-1 Dream Of Normi, 8-1 May-ali, 33-1 Down Hearing 4.30 SEATON BURN DISTAFF HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 5f 0-0212 LADY SHERREF (4) (D) M W Exceptly 6 10 0 ....... T Lucas & B 0000-0 Faulty CLANCY (LA) Mass L Sidell 4 7 10 \_\_\_ M Codisto 2 B African vege: 1944. Legin 75 40. BETTING: 2-1 Ledy Shorlff, 7-2 Belland Ledy, 5-1 Chellog, 8-1 Pathoes Senset Rachour, 10-1 Superfulle, 16-1 Madem Zamio, 20-1 others 5.05 BRANDLING HOUSE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m

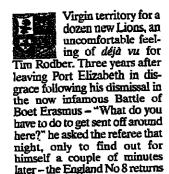
243-0 BLCKSON FALLS (28) T Easterby 9 7... 00-041 CARLTON (12) 6 Lawls 9 3 ... 

### sport

### Leonard given Lions captaincy as Rodber returns to scene of crime

**Rugby Union** 

CHRIS HEWEIT reports from Durban



day for the opening fixture of the No wonder Rodber was feeling queasy yesterday; confined to his hotel room with a feverish high temperature, the Northampton captain was probably the victim of cold sweats as well as hot ones as he contemplated another meeting with Eastern Province. "The incidents that occurred in the Eng-

to the same stadium on Satur-

1994 are an irrelevance," insisted Fran Cotton, the Lions manager. Maybe, but old indignities die hard and Rodber would be less than human were he not to fall prey to some bitter memories between now and the weekend.

Many will argue that Cotton and his fellow selectors should have exercised some diplomacy and allowed Rodber to sit this one out, but they were right to take the opposite view. By picking England's Five Nations' back row en bloc, they have given themselves their best chance of hitting the ground running and dealing with a home side crammed with ringers.

Ian McGeechan, the coach, always planned to make full use of established combinations in the early games and he was true to his principles yesterday. Jeremy Guscott and Scott Gibbs, the 1993 Test centres in New Zealand, renew their acquaintance on Saturday while Keith Wood and Jason Leonard bring their Harlequins club partnership to the front row.
With Martin Johnson opting

domestic campaign - no English club player gave more of himself last season than the Leicester lock - Leonard has been awarded the captaincy. "This is a high-pressure game and Jason has enormous experience," Cotton said. "He knows what it is to run out in front of 45,000 peo-

While Cotton stressed that Leonard should not be considered a de facto vice-captain, it is clear that he is highly prized as a senior tourist. "It's a massive honour and one I didn't expect to receive," said the universally popular and deeply respected prop. "While this game can only be seen as a big challenge - I don't expect any easy matches in South Africa there are a number of very experienced players in the line-up

ple away from home and that

knowledge will be invaluable."

"I'll have a quiet word in one or two ears before the game but we all know why we're here." Leonard's role is one of the most intriguing aspects of the tour. Equally capable on both

and that helps.

for a breather after a 40-match sides of the scrum, he will play at tight-head, his current position for both club and country, against the Easterns. But he London on Wednesday. suggested before the tour that he might well switch to loosehead at some stage - he shifted in the opposite direction with

> hanging once again yesterday. "Who knows what lies around the corner," he said, cryptically. The Springboks, firm believers that successful rugby starts in the front row, consider the Zealand, in his starting line-up. Lions to be short of clout up front and are confident of uncovering a weakness or two at the sharp end. If Tom Smith, the Scottish new boy, and Graham Rowntree, the current England loose-head, fail to impress

enormous effect when the Lions

took on the All Blacks four years

early on, they may well find Leonard on their case as well as a meany South African or two. Only Paul Grayson, the outside-half from Northampton, was not considered for the opener. He has survived a couple of punishing, full-contact

and if the strained muscle in his right thigh continues to respond to treatment, he will almost certainly face Border in East

Johan Kluyts, the Eastern Province coach, confirmed yes terday that two celebrated Springboks from Transvaal Kobus Wiese and Hennie le Roux, would square up to the ago - and left the question Lions on Saturday and also picked Theo van Rensburg, the former Test full-back, and Matthew Webber, a highly rated flanker from New

> Rian van Jaarsveld, a promising centre, and Armand de Preez, a second row forward with a colourful disciplinary record outside of the game as well as in-Elizabeth after spells at Transvaal while Ken Ford plays at outside-half under the terms of a mould-breaking twinning agreement between the two provinces. LIONS (v Eastern Province, Port Elizabeth, Saturdey): N Jenies; J Bernley, J Guscott, S Gibbs, N Beal; G Townsend, R Howley, T Smith, K Wood, J Leonard (capit), G Weir, S Shaw, L Dallagin, T Rodber, R Hill, Substi-tutes: T Underwood, A Bateman, M Davison, P Wallace, B Williams, S Quinnell.



Monica Seles plays a double-handed forehand in her 6-0, 6-1 destruction of Maria Antonia Sanchez in the second round of the Madrid Open yesterday Photograph: AFP

### **Cook the latest** to join Giants

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Huddersfield have continued their drive for Super League status by signing the utility back Paul Cook from Bradford for

Cook, a 20-year-old winger or full-back who played for Eng-land in the 1995 World Cup, is the fourth player with Super League experience to join the Giants in the last two weeks. He follows the London Broncos winger Ikram Butt, forward Paul Dixon from Sheffield and Leeds' Great Britain Academy prop. Nick Fozzard.

Fozzard and Cook in particular are players we have identified as wanting to bring here for a long time," Les Coulter, the Huddersfield chief executive, said.

"Our chairman, Ken Davy, has put down another marker the sort of players who can not in back tax.

only get us into Super League but keep us there.

Hudderstield, three points behind Hull at the top of the First Division, are clearly stocking up with Super League in mind, which raises suspicions that they believe more than the proposed one club will be promoted at the end of this season. Coulter said he had heard rumours of an expansion to 14 clubs. "Our aim is to win promotion as champions, he said. "Failing that, if there is going to be an expansion, we want to be in the best possible place to be considered.

St Helens, will be without their stand-off, Tommy Martyn, for the rest of the season, following the news that he needs a second knee reconstruction in two years.

The winding-up order brought against Halifax by the Inland Revenue was withdrawn when it came before the High Court yesterday. The club have satisfied the Inland Revenue for our ambitions, as these are with a plan to pay off £100,000

#### Witch Way for Funnell

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Pippa Funnell had not expected to be among the competitors for the Chubb Insurance Windsor International Horse Trials. which begin today in Windsor Great Park. Having won the international section there for the last two years, she did not have a suitable mount in her yard on which to aim for a hat-trick.

Funnell has since been offered the ride on Witch Way whose owner, Briony Holloway, was injured in a fall at Dauntsey last month. Funnell has had one outing with the mare when finishing seventh at Goring Heath at the end of April.

"I wanted to support Windsor and I aim to have some fun there," Funnell said. Although Witch Way is a nice quality mare, she lacks experience and is unlikely to produce a good enough dressage test to give Funnell a third victory.

The value of Windsor as a

stepping stone to greater things was demonstrated at Pun-chestown in Ireland last weekends. when Funnell finished runner-up to the United States rider Bruce Davidson on Squelch. Funnell was riding Designer Tramp, who won at Windsor two years ago.

Venable:

cover up

Lucinda Murray is another competitor who is taking over from an injured rider. She will be on Night Flight VII. who was due to be ridden by her owner, Sarah Brown, until she sustained back and arm injuries in a recent fall. Last year Brown jumped clear cross-country and show jumping rounds in the national section at Windsor to fin-

ish in ninth place.

Andrew Nicholson will be riding in his fifth three-day event in the same number of weeks when he rides the former point-to-point horse Whit Monday, one of 34 horses in the New Zealander's Somerset yard. The nine-year-old, who is a big and leggy horse of 17.3 hands, fin-ished sixth in the French threeday event at Pau last year.

#### All change for Admiral's ment are within the Mumm 36

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

Changes to Britain's Admiral's Cup preparation are in full flow just two months before the three-boat team takes on some formidable opposition from New Zealand, America, Italy, Germany and Scandinavia.

The appointment of Chris Law as principal helmsman on Graham Walker's Corum Indulgence is strengthened by bringing in three top sailors from the Corum team, proba-

bly including Luc Gelluseau. The boat, which has been shipped back from the United States, is to have the slightly oversize keel reshaped and further changes may be made to improve its handicap rating even if this were to take it outside the rules for the Corel 45 class in which, it normally sails,

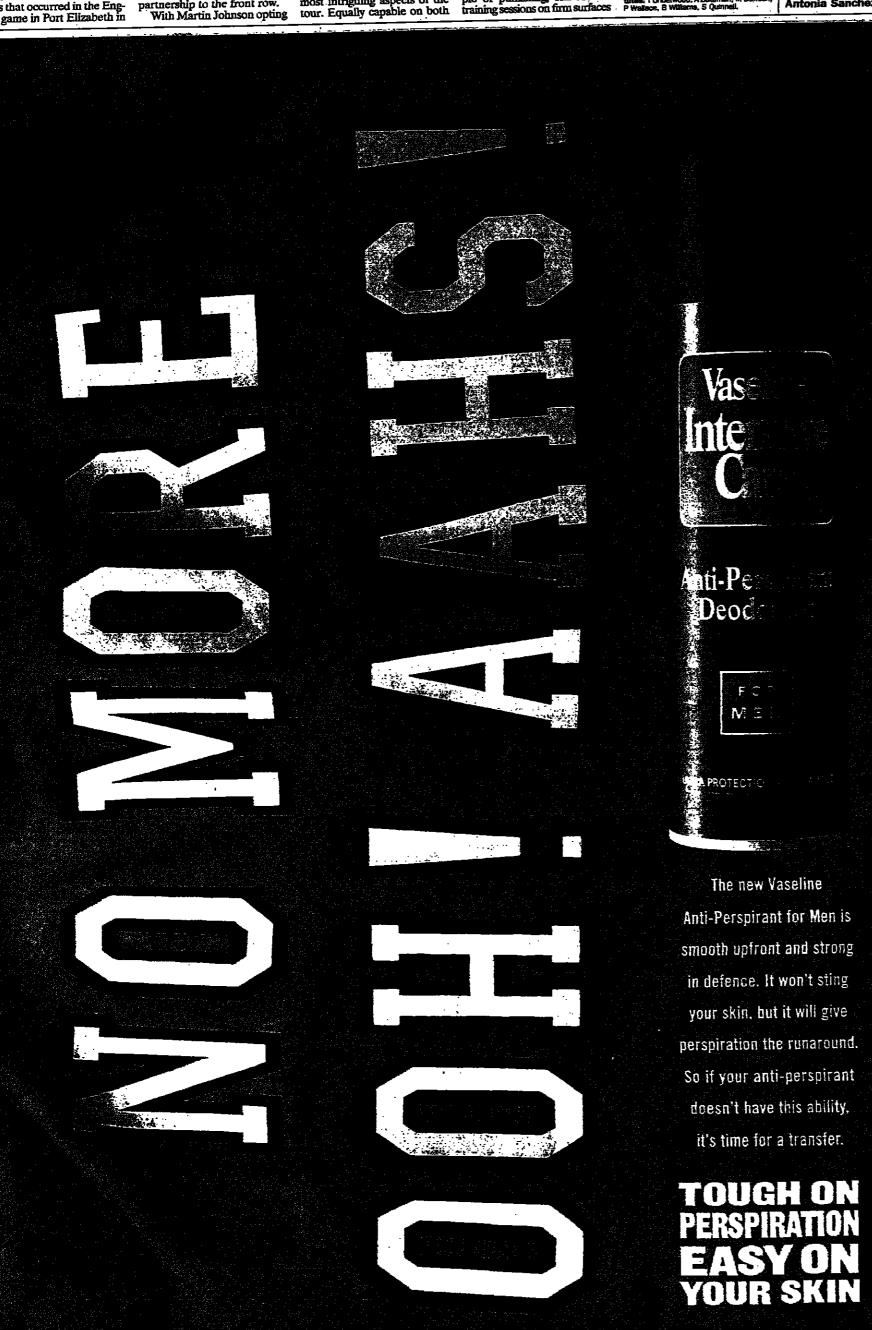
The 40-footer Easy Oars continues to make solid progress and further optimisation is part of owner Tony Buckingham's plan to counter the threat of the all-conquering Italian 40-footer, Pasquale Landolfi's Brava. The only hiccups at the mo-

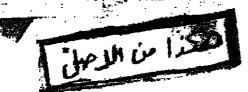
campaign, where Tim Barrett's Bradamante was shipped in error to Italy and both masts were damaged. But Brada-mante, with Olympic silver medallists John Merricks and Ian Walker calling the shots, had to be in Italy by next week any-way for the Mumm 36 World Championship at Punta Ala. They have a new mast, are also

doing some work on their keel, and are anxious to bring some momentum back to a campaign which had an encouraging start in Key West and Miami.

What is causing them problems is the lack of offshore racing practice so far achieved and some doubts over funding. There was an earlier agreement over support for the Mumm 36, but not all of that is in place and without it the boat would have to stop racing between the world championship and the Admiral's Cup.

More confident in that area is the Royal Yachting Association, whose bid for lottery funding via the Sports Council should be ratified on 6 June. The RYA hopes to get up to £3m a year for the next three years.





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### Blackburn in £3m bid for Sforza

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ALAN NIXON

Roy Hodgson's Swiss connections have led Blackburn Revers to offer Internazionale 13m for the midfielder Ciriaco Sforza. Rovers, who have already made a £4.2m bid for Sforza's fellow-countryman and Borussia Dortmund striker Stéphane Chapuisat, made their move just hours before Inter played Schalke in last night's Uefa Cup final second leg.

The Premiership club are confident that Hodgson, who leaves Inter to manage Blackburn next month, can persuade Sforza to follow him to Ewood Park if the bid is accepted.

 Hodgson has been Sforza's mentor since he was in charge of the Swiss national side and he took him to Inter last summer. Kaiserslautern, just promoted back to the Bundesliga, are also keen to sign Sforza, but are unlikely to be able to match Rovers' personal terms.

The prospects of Intergetting their hands on Barcelona's Ronaldo are slim. The club's president, Massimo Moratti, confirmed he had made an offer for striker, but was awaiting developments "with fatalism".

"If you want my impressions, I don't think that Ronaldo will choose Inter," said Moratti, who is reported to have offered Barcelona a £40m deal for the 20-year-old Brazilian.

Shay Given, tired of being Tim Flowers' goalkeeping understudy, has turned down a new contract at Rovers paving the way for the expected move to Newcastle United. Given's impending arrival should nudge the transfer-listed keeper Pavel Smicek even further towards West Ham who, however, will need to increase their £500,000 offer. Bruno N'Gotty will not be playing in the black and white stripes next season, the defender having signed a one-year extension to his three-year con-

tract at Paris St-Germain. Bolton Wanderers have extricated Neil Cox from the mire at relegated Middlesbrough for retired from football and quit £1.5m. The full-back, irked at his job at Plainmoor. The 36being left out of the FA Cup fi- year-old Nelson is taking up a nal, has been critical of his senior post with the Professional

Terry Venables is facing anoth-er courtroom battle, this time

with former Portsmouth direc-

tor Terry Brady, who is seeking

repayment of a loan he says he

made to the First Division club.

ton Park last October after

clashing with the then manag-

ing director, Martin Gregory.

over the money available for

new signings. He had been a di-

rector at Fration Park for only

Now Brady is demanding

Brady left the board at Frat-

Fabrizio Ravanelli. Not sur-prisingly, Cox. whose contract expires next month, rapidly agreed to join the Premiership

Bolton were just as enthusiastic. "I acted very, very quickly. He has a wealth of experience for someone who is only 25," Bolton's manager Colin Todd said. "He is another very good quality acquisition."

Kevin Kilbane, the Preston North End winger, has become the first £1m signing in West Bronwich Albion's history. The fee exceeds Albion's 18-year-old transfer record of £750,000. paid to Manchester City for another winger, Peter Barnes. Midfielder Julian Darby has left Albion for Preston in a separate deal worth £150,000.

The Dutch goalkeeper Edwin Zoetebier is expected to become Sunderland's first signing as a First Division club. The 27year-old will give his decision on the £1m move from Volendam in the next fortnight.

Grimsby Town and Walsall saw their managers depart yesterday, but in differing circumstances. Kenny Swain was dismissed by the Mariners in the wake of the their relegation to the Second Division, while Chris Nicholl resigned at Bescot Stadium, despite efforts to make him sign a new contract. The former Grimsby man-

ager Alan Buckley, who was sacked by West Brom in January, may return for his second spell at Blundell Park, but his Walsall connections could also make him a candidate for their unexpected vacancy.

Shrewsbury Town have entrusted Jake King, their former captain, with the task of revitalising the club after their drop into the Third Division. The 42year-old Scot, who takes over from the sacked Fred Davies, had only been the manager of non-league neighbours Telford since November.

Garry Nelson, the Torquay United player-coach and author of the widely-acclaimed Left Foot Forward, an account of his life as a journeyman player, has making personal attacks on players' union.

club are fighting the writ, say-

ing the money was not a loan

but an investment to buy shares.

fore the Chancery Division of

The case appeared briefly be-



Nick Faldo practises at Wentworth vesterday for tomorrow's Volvo PGA Championship

### Sorenstam's tough assignment

act at Pumpkin Ridge.

the High Court in London, but was adjourned for a second hearing. Now the two sides will meet to try to sort out the dispute over the money. Nick Trainer, Portsmouth's

solicitor, warned yesterday that the dispute could take up to two eight months, after providing an years to settle. interest-free £500,000 loan to Trainer said r

Trainer said no shares were ever issued to Brady because the help the club buy Martin Allen club were unsure how much he was prepared to invest, but Pompey pay back the money be added that Brady could have claims they owe him. But the whatever shares he had paid for.

ics] now is that the structure has

round in Corsica after a bizarre

accident when he hit a cow,

leads the standings by two

points from Britain's Colin

McRae. Carlos Sainz of Spain

is joint third with the part-time

For McRae, the Argentina

event is a return to the scene of

his most disappointing outing

last season. He was fined after

colliding with spectators in a ser-

vice area. But after a stirring vic-

tory in Corsica two weeks ago, the Subaru driver is eager for

mountain regions of the Andes. the world championship lead.

Italian driver Piero Liatti:

Annika Sorenstam knows she is in July," said Judy Bell, presi-

Yesterday she got her first look at the golf course on the rolling foothills of the Coast course, the side of the 36-hole Range 20 miles west of Portland, where she will try this summer to become the first golfer to win a third consecutive US Women's Open.

It is the same course where, a year ago. Tiger Woods won his third successive US Amateur ti-

"If our last stand here was any sign of what's to come, we're go-

following the game's toughest dent of the US Golf Associamost important event in women's golf. Five others have

Sorenstam did not have time Pumpkin Ridge layout where the US Women's Open will be played on 10 to 13 July. She it a lot. I have an opportunity flew in on Monday from to do something nobody else has Delaware, where she finished third at the LPGA Championship. On Wednesday, she leaves for Frisco, Texas, the site of this weekend's LPGA Skins

France's double Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec will attempt an un-precedented 400 metres and 400 me-

tres hurdles double at the Athens World Championships this August.

SAUDIRIMAN CUP WORLD BADMINTON MODED TEAM CHAMPORSHIP (Glasgow) Group 2A: Germany 3. Japan 2. Tenhan 3 Trailand 2. Group 3A: Australia 4 Australia 1 Horgand 2. Group 5A: Australia 4 Australia 1 Horgand 2. Group 5A: Mineriana 5. Caech Republic 0, Wales 5 Switzelfand 0. Group EA: Belagus 5 Portugel 0, France 5 Belgium 0. Group 5B: Spain 4 Paru 1. Group 6B: Mauritus 3 Israel 2, South Africa 4 Jameica 1. Group 5B: Estonia 5 Greece 0, Urhuania 5 Armenia 0.

Bailroom dancing has enlisted the backing of sports mentering mogul Mark McConmack as it seeks to become an

Olympic sport in the next century. The International DenceSport Federation has tearned up with McCormack's Interna-

tional Management Group (IMG) in a bid to raise its profile, be recognised as a sport and gain Olympic status.

The Chicago Bulls held the Heat to just

11 points in the fourth quarter as they charged to an 84-77 recovery victory over Miami on Tuesday in the opening game of the Eastern Conference finals. Michael Jordan scored 37 points, Scotte Pippen had 24 points and Dennis-

Rodman pulled down 19 rebounds for the Bulls, who trailed by as many 16

points in the first half, by 11 at half-time and by five at the end of three quar-

Chris Finch, a Sheffield Sharks player.

for the past three seasons, has been

appointed coach to the Budweiser League club. He replaces fellow Amer-

tean Jim Brandon, who joined Man-

NBA play-off: Eastern Conference finals: Cricago 84 Miami 77 (Cricago leads best-

chester Glants on Tuesday.

Baltroom dancing

Basketball

Athletics

Already, this has been a suc-It is the kind of cross-councessful year for the 26-year-old ing to have a terrific week here try odyssey that is required of from Sweden by way of the Uni-

SPORTING DIGEST

the defending champion of the versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and alwon consecutive US Women's ready has won three tourna-

> The par-71, 6,415-yard Witch Hollow course for this week has been set up to provide a particularly testing challenge of the players' all round game, but that will not shake Sorenstam's resolve. Quite the opposite. The tougher the course, the better. the Swede said yesterday. "It seems like I do well on the golf courses where conditions are tricky, when par is a good score," she said.

### **Faldo hails** the Woods phenomenon

ANDY FARRELL

Familiar surroundings, home comforts and the absence of Tiger Woods are the factors that Nick Faldo hopes will spark a resurgence in his fortunes. While Woods is playing a dif-ferent game to the rest of his tour colleagues, Faldo is be-ginning to talk a different game.

"Tiger is doing what he wants to do at the moment," Faldo said. "His game is amazing. His key clubs are the driver and the putter. If those two are workng, then he is unbeatable."

Faldo has not used such words about any other player in his 20year career. While praise for Woods, who returned after a month's break following his Masters triumph to win again in the United States last week. from lesser mortals is commonplace, it is faintly shocking from the player who, with six majors, has come closest to dominating over the last 10 years.

"It was the same deal with Nicklaus," Faldo continued. There are no par-fives for Tiger. Even on the monsters he gets there in two. When you are hitting eight-irons instead of four-irons into greens, there are no tough pin placements. He's got the game throttled.

"Modern golf course design has to cater for this kind of length. Bunkers need to range from 250 yards to 350, so that everyone is playing the same kind of shot. Or, maybe put a lake at 300 yards on every hole. At least, it would look pretty. It's amazing

that one guy has come along and they are thinking of changing all the historic golf courses.

"But he's doing it, and good luck to him. He's built for the 90s, both in his game and in the media attention. He has made a major contribution to what the US tour will now be playing for." This last was a reference to the negotiations for the television contracts in America, which will see tournament purses doubling to over \$3m (£1.87m), on

average, in two years' time. As for the chances of Woods completing golf's mythical mod-ern Grand Slam, Faldo puts his odds as more than twice as good as when he "got pretty close" in 1990. That was the year he won the Masters and the Open. and in between lipped out to get

into a play-off for the US Open.

The only one of this year's venue in theory where he might be out of whack is Troon, if he is not used to playing in a gale and with rock hard ground. But then again, it might rain. When courses are wet and the ball stays where it is hit, then he has a huge advantage."

Faldo has changed his schedule to tee up tomorrow in the Voivo PGA Championship at Wentworth and is hoping to gain some of the Ryder Cup points he missed out on by missing the cut at the Masters. "It took a while, but that is behind me now," he said. "My short game has cost me this year and I've been working on my putting. I'm in a flat spell right now, but I'm planning on playing through it as quickly as possible and getting off on another good run.

#### Zoeller makes his peace with Tiger

Tiger Woods and Fuzzy Zoeller here," he said. "I just hope held their long-awaited meeting at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth yesterday and both golfers said they hoped they could at last put their Masters

controversy behind them. remarks at the conclusion of last month's Masters about what the record-breaking winner Woods might decide to have served at at the Colonial and his seventh

Zoeller had already publicly apologised for his clumsy stab at humour, but vesterday's 20minute lunch in the players dining room was their first faceto-face meeting, one that Woods had said he was looking

forward to. "We had a nice lunch and a nice conversation. I let him know how I feel and heard what he was thinking and now it's behind us," Woods said. "Now I understand the entire situation and hope we can both have a

good week this week." Zoeller who had described his life as "total hell" since the incident, did not appear at yesterday's news conference, but said he was glad to have the meeting behind him.

"Everything went good and positive. We're looking straight ahead and moving on from something positive comes from

Zoeller said he had briefly considered retiring, but decided to come to Fort Worth and face Woods before this week's Zoeller was criticised for his \$1.6m (£1m) Colonial PGA tournament.

Woods will be going for his third successive win this week and sixth on the PGA Tour. since leaving the amateur ranks. "My goal is always to get better and that's what I hope to do this week," Woods said.

#### TODAY'S **NUMBER**

The number of times Peterborough manager Barry Fry uses the "F" word in next week's ITV documentary, which followed him during the season - nine times more than England manager Graham Taylor in the documentary Do I Not Like That.

WORLD TEAM CUP (Desseldorf) Red Broup: Croartie beat Caseh Republic 2-1, (Croaremes first): G Ivanisevic and S Husson by D Vacek, and M Darram 5-7 6-4 6-3.

ST POLITING GRAMP PROX MEN'S TOURNAMENT (St. Potter, Aut) Singles, second round: M Norman (Swe) bit C Trimmel (Aut) 6-2 7-5; P Rather (Aut) bit J Terango (US) 6-7 6-2 6-1; S Schalken (Neth) bit J Krostek (Slovak) 7-6 6-2; K Alam (Mor) bit G Schalker (Aut) 6-3 7-5; T Muster (Aut) bit H Gurny (Arg) 5-7 6-1,6-1; D Hirbery (Slovak) bit G Siberstein (Chie) 6-2 7-6; M Filippin (Murg) bit M Rosset (Swit) 4-0 (ret); T Nydahr (Swe) bit M Rios (Chie) 6-4 6-2.

(Chie) 8-4 6-2.

MADRED WOMEN'S GPEN (Selected): Second roand: Spiries (Rom) bt S Cecchini (It) 6-2 6-1: M Seles (US) bt M A Sanchez (Sp) 8-0 6-1; A Sanchez Vicano (Sp) bt C Cristea (Rom) 4-6 6-0 8-0; J Novouns (Cz Repibt A Cartsson (Swa) 6-2 6-2.

WAZ WINDER D DAWEN C. C. S.

WIA WORLD DOUBLES CUP (Craigles

WTA WORLD DOUBLES CIP (Craiglocidam't Teennice Centre, Edinburgia) First resend; N Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Neth) to O Lugina (Ukr) and E Wagner (Gar) 6-4 7-5; R McQuillan (Aus) and N Mijnag (Jep) by Y Bassid (Indo) and C vis (Neth) 7-6 (7-5) 1-6 6-4. DAVIS CUP Burg/African Zone Group Teres (Plevelle, Bal) Group At Bulgaria beat Mala 3-0 if Resistano it M Schembri 6-1 6-1; O Stenoychès Deat C Gatt 6-4 6-0; I Buseriov and I Trailiov for G Accide and M Schembri 7-6 3. Extende beat Kespe 2-1 (A Luzgin til A Cooper 8-2 8-1; R Busch lost to P Welses 1-6 2-6; Luzgin and G Wilms bit Cooper and Welses 6-3 6-4. Broup B: Monaco beat Algeria 2-1 (C Sceno bt M Mahmoudi 6-2 7-6; S Greeff bit N Mahmoudi 6-3 6-7 6-7. Moldow beat Cassenoon 3-0 to Sanc tit A Mogg 7-5 3-6 7-5; J Gorben bit Y Austoux 6-3 6-0; Gorben and Sanc tit I. Kemajou and J Oyetog 6-3 6-3.

#### Lewis slates US 'cover up'

**New writ for Venables** 

from West Ham

Carl Lewis has accused the sport's authorities in the United States of trying to cover up the abuse of performance-enhancing drugs after it emerged yesterday that two more Amer-ican athletes are embroiled in a doping scandal.

A few days after a furore involving Sandra Farmer-Patrick and Mary Slaney, two unnamed American athletes have tested positive for banned drugs.

Lewis, America's most successful athlete, said of US track and field authorities: "There is no question in my mind that they have more knowledge

Fommi Makmen, whose Ar-

gentina rally victory proved the

turning point of last season

and set him on course for the

world title, has his sights on a

looking forward to the event

very much. I think it will be very

good for our car," he said

ahead of today's start of the sev-

enth round of the champi-

the half-way stage of

the season, with a course

"After last year's result, I am

fepeat triumph.

onship.

#### Tonkov has the edge in about the drug problem than they are telling the public. "The problem [in US athletsprint finish

broken down and the doping problem is being ignored and Pavel Tonkov, the defending sometimes supported... They champion, beat Luc Leblanc, are overlooking the drug problem and, in some cases, may have Marco Pantani and Ivan Gotti even tried to protect athletes." in a four-way sprint in the first International Amateur Athmountainous stage of the Giro letic Federation officials in d'Italia yesterday, retaining the Monaco were unable to confirm pink jersey and strengthening the two positive tests. his overall lead

The victory in the fifth stage IAAF sources could not - his second in three days - gave the 28-year-old Russian cyclist name the substances involved or when the tests were held, but the edge in the overall standings they said US officials were expected to inform them of the reas most of his rivals finished well behind in the uphill race which sults in the next few days. ended at 1,675 metres on Ter-

minillo peak. Tonkov, the 1996 Giro win-Makinen seeking repeat ner, completed the distance in 6hr 14mm 58sec at an average Makinen, who was forced to speed of 21.329mph. withdraw from the previous

Leblanc rished ahead 200m from the finish line, but Tonkov was quick to fight back and beat him. Leblanc lifted himself from fourth to second place overall, 41sec behind Tonkov.

"It was a tough stage because of rain," said Tonkov, who is competing in the race with a bandaged left wrist, following an accident last month. "I proved in good form. I'm glad to be at the top, but there's still a long Way to go."

The race, which ends in Milan on 8 June, continues today through the high-altitude the victory that would give him with a 130-mile hilly stage from Rieti to Lanciano.

Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailes

Baseball muriaer Johnson and Donovan Bailey have finally got their names in the record books. The International Amateur Athletic Federation yesterday formally ratified the world records set by the two at last summer's Atlanta Olympics – Johnson's 19.32sec in the 200 metres and Bailey's 9.84 in the 100m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 4 Kansas: City 3, Baltimore 4 Detroit 3, NY Yankees 0 Toxonto 2, CHI Whate Sox 1D Bosson 1, Milweukee 3 Mannesota 4, Texas 8 Oetkland 3, Anahelm 11. Seattle 9.

MATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 6 Ny Mess 5, Atlanta 4 Montreal 2, Chicago Cubs 2 Philiadelphia 3, Houston 4 Cincimso 7, St. Louis 3 Prissually 1, San Dego 7 Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 6 Colorado 3.

Open titles, but no one has won

Sorenstam said, "I think about

to do something nobody else has

done, which is a big challenge.

But on the other hand, I tell my-

self 'Don't feel like you have to

do it. You have won it twice in

"It would be incredible."

three in a row.

Glenn Catiey has been lined up to fight American Manuel Lopez in the first de-fence of his World Boxing Council in-ternational middleweight title. The usmaruonau middleweight title. The Bristol boxer, who won the title against African champion Bocco George last Jan-uary, will fight the unbeaten Lopez at the city's Whitchurch Sports Centre on Thursday, 5 June.

Thursday, 5 June.
Andrew Golota of Poland will face Ray
Mercer at Atlantic City Convention Hall
on 16 August. As a result, the fight between Roy Jones Jnr and new WBC lighthamasaidhr chamoion Morgell Griffin heavyweight champion Montell Griffin has been moved from Atlantic City to the Fowcoods Casino Resort in Ledyard, Connecticut, the newspaper said. CON RESIDUAL REIN stage (215 loss from Area-co): 1 Pavel Tonicov (Rus) Mitorel sh hours 14 minutes and 58 seconds; 2 Luc Lablanc (Fr) Polit. 3 Marco Pantara (I) Microspine Unu 4 ham Qur-1, (II) Saccu; 5 Michele Copposito (II). Landing overall standings: 1 Tonicov 18 hours 32 minutes and 49 soponds; 2 Leblanc +41; 3 Gotti +67; 4 Petrio +73; 5 Pantari +91.

Gremio and Flamengo pleyed out a drab, foul-ridden O-O draw in the first leg of the Copa Brasil final on Tuesday. The

result, in Gremio's stadium in the southern city of Porto Alegre, slightly favoured Flamengo who will play today's second leg at home in Rio de Janeiro. Yugoslav striker Miladin Becanovic has joined Marseille from Lille on a threeyear contract, a Life official said yes-terday. Becancule speed 40 terday. Becanovic scored 13 goals this season but failed to save Life from reegation to the French Second Division. Claiming foreigners are robbing them of their jobs, Spanish players have set a 30 June deadline for officials to lower the number of non-European Union players in the Spanish league. Although the player's union did not issue a strike call,

a walk-out has been discussed in the

Golf Former European Ryder Cup star Torn-my Horton fired an eagle and three birdles in successive holes to extend his lead in the Scottish Life/Ben Sayers Se-

nior Club Professional Championship at Coventry to five shots yesterday. The 55-year-old Royal Jersey professional card-ed a stx-under-par 67. SCOTTISH LIFEBEN SAYERS SENIOR CLUB PROFESSIONAL CHAMPHONSHIP (Fisher Park, Cowastry) Second round: 137 Thoton (Royal Jensey) 70 67; 142 A Broots (Royal St George's) 74 68; S Advick (Packrook Park) 71 71; 143 D Hush (North Benvick) 74 69; 144 M Ingham (Clecinteston & Diet) 72 72; G Burroughs (Boyce Hill) 73 71; 145 C Defay (Coombe Hill) 74, H Boyle (Royal Wimbledon) 75 70; 147 B Wattes (Notts) 73 74, J Rhodes (South Staffs) 72 75, T Squares (Boston) 73 74; 148 T O'Mehoney (Noordwijk) 76 72; 149 H Jackson (76 73); 150 F Hill (Thorpeness) 73 77; H Ratmen (Romford) 75 74; M McCrorte (Strathaven) 72 78, B Hunt (Foohills) 73 77; D Snet (Red) 75 75; A Had (Mill Grosel) 72 77; D Snet (Red) 75 75; A Had (Mill Groen) 72 78. SCOTTISH LIFEREN SAYERS SENIOR CLUB

Handball WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PRELIMMARY ROUND (Kumernoto, Japan) Group & Jopen 23 Saudi Arabia 20 (haffitima 15-10), Group Et Italy 19 Norway 19 (10-9), France 24 Ar-geritina 20 (12-8), Group II: Turisia 19 Por-tugal 18 (9-7), Spain 32 Brazi 11 (15-3), Group Dr. Russia 30 Morocco 13 (14-7), Hun-gary 22 Cuba 21 (11-8).

Olympic Games

Primo Nebiolo, of Italy, was yesterday re-elected for another four-year term as president of the umbrella body of inremational summer sports fed But Neblolo failed to receive unanimous backing from the Association of Sum mer Olympic International Federations, which represents the 28 sports in the summer games.

ice bockey STANLEY CUP Play-off: Eastern Conference finals: NY Rangers 3, Philadelphia 6 (Philadel phia leada best-of-seven series 2-1).

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 21 pts £15,000, 20 £120.30, 19 £10.70, 18 £2.25 Half time: 18 £345.85.

VERNONS: Trable Chance: 21 £6.891.85 20 £57.35, 19 £11.85, ZETTERS: Troble Chance: 21 £1,799.60, 20 £6.45, 19 £1.25.

At the Spa Olympic regatta in Medemblik, Netherlands, Ben Ainslie, the Olympic silver medallist, had a disappointing opening with two 11th places and one first place in the Laser class. The world No 1 Shirley Robertson compensated for British with two firsts and a peace of the Survey Robertson contents to the Survey Robertson contents to the Survey Robertson Compensation for British was class. compensation for Birmain with two insist and a second in the Europe class. The 1996 Olympic bronze medalist Courtenay Becker-Dey has returned to the United States after being told not ask usually also have been also as only would she not be skipper for the Swedish EF syndicate in the Whitbread Round the World Race, a job given to Frenchwoman Christine Guillou, but

SERRICO

SERRICO (1984)

SERRICO (1984)

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TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PLAY-OFF SECOND LEG Airdrie (0) v Hibernian (1) (8.0) . **Rughy League** 

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Salford v St Hollens (7.30). Rugby Union TOUR MATCHES: Cordobe v England (Cordoba, 12am); Northland (NZ) v Ireland Development XV (Whangerel, 8.35am).

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich v Eastbourne (7.30).
PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield v Long Eason

Other sports TERRIES: WTA Whytel Doubles Cup (Edinbursh). BADMINTON: World Team Championships (Sudamen Cup) (Glasgow).

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Leading the line: The Australian squad limber up under the glowering Yorkshire sky for the first one-day Texaco Trophy match at Headingley today

## England have to take the initiative

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Headingley

Michael Atherton, never previously one to be counted amongst the one-day game's fanatics, suddenly finds he has much to play for over the next four days. But if protecting an unbeaten home record as captain in Texaco Trophy matches would normally be motivation enough, the added incentive of grasping the initiative against the Australians ought to ensure that this series, which begins here today, will be anything

Looking relaxed and clean-

ference, the England captain promised that despite Australia's decade-long dominance over their old rivals, none of his players would have an inferiority

"Australia is one team we haven't played or beaten in this kind of trophy," Atherton said yesterday. "We are keen to pitch at Worcester, did not beget off to a good start and grasp the initiative for the rest of the two of the toughest teams in

We have plenty of individuals who are capable of doing well. You will have to wait and see, but we do have plenty of guys who will entertain you on your holiday. I believe we'll be need a better start to the series

tirely hopeful, either. For one thing Australia, having lost out to the weather, appear underprepared. But although their aptain, Mark Taylor, claims it is not a concern, their recent defeat - itself a rarity inside these shores - on a slow seaming

fit a side who had just beaten

world cricket. Taylor, however, was optimistic. "We are ready," he said.
"We came here with a lot of cricket behind us and we only had a few weeks off to recharge our batteries.

Headingley, a traditional haven for seam bowling until the

Such a wish may not be en-ago, may well be similar and re-rely hopeful, either. For one vert to type, particularly if the heavy cloud cover of the last two

days remains overhead. If so, runs are likely to be eked out rather than plundered, the stage set for scrappers like Taylor, Atherton and Steve Waugh rather than the expansive strokeplay of Michael

Nick Knight, his injured finger recovered enough for him to field at slip, will open the innings with Atherton. Thereafter the Surrey trio of Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Adam Hollioake will form a middleorder that will probably be bolstered by John Crawley. preferred - at least initially - to Graham Lloyd, as the man Warne spinning a run-tight web. With Mark Ealham, Robert Croft and Phil DeFreitas like-

ly to fill the numerous allrounder roles, both Ben Hollioake and Ashley Giles may have to wait a while longer before making their debut. But while Taylor believes

that advances in one-day cricket - such as pinch hitters - take it progressively further away as a game from Test cricket, England's early season pitches, with keep many of the time-honoured orthodoxies, such as line and length bowling, in place.

That said, Darren Gough will lead a bowling attack which will include either Dean

Headley or Chris Silverwood as England's confidence. But de-more scrutiny than Atherton the other specialist bowler. A plethora of all-rounders, inchiding Croft's off-spin, will provide the remaining overs.

There is always the temptation to pick a bowler on his home ground and Silverwood may well get the nod. More likely, however, is that Dean Headley will take the new ball alongside Gough. At the age of 27, it is high time the selectors found out what Headley - so impressive amongst the colts for England A last winter - can really do in the company of

And some test it could be with Mark Waugh, Michael Be-van, Greg Blewett and Slater all keen to put bat to ball and rock spite their batting prowess, and the spectre of Warne, Taylor insisted that his side did not have a superiority complex.

"As I said when we arrived, it's nil-all at the moment. We can't just expect to win without doing the things that got us there in the past," Taylor said.

"As Australians, we don't need much more motivation than being in an Ashes contest and you can be sure we'll be going flat out as of tomorrow. It will be nice to win the one-day series because the side that wins it comprehensively will carry a big psychological advantage into the first Test

gence from a player discarded

for Euro 96 by Terry Venables

to England's best performer

against Mexico has not dimin-

ished speculation he might leave

Newcastle for London. His orig-

inal contract at St James' Park

case he got homesick and he has

been linked with a move to West

Ham as Kenny Dalglish starts his

summer renovations.

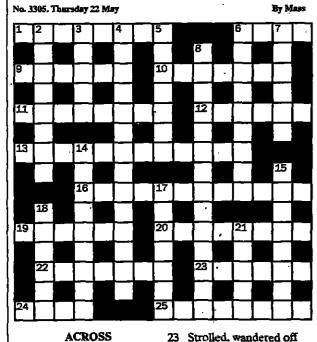
was in Zimbabwe, Taylor, w feels he is at last beginning hit the ball well, will be keen a score as well as a win.

"I'm probably looking for ward to this series more that anyone at the moment," he said after Australia's fielding practice yesterday. Knowing England's proclivity for bowling people back into form, I'll beta

ostralia (from): M A Taylor (capt), M E Waugh R Waugh, M G Beven, G S Blewett, M J Slater

County cricket, page 25

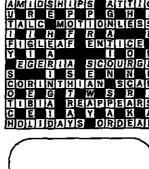
#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



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- ed in bond (6) 13 Not the best at setting up
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- **SW** river (9) Creature making nest in 17
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  - Agree to take in a dog (6) 21 Handle? Lift with it (5)

### Lee laments lack of praise for home grown players

Footbali **GUY HODGSON** 

You could be forgiven for thinking the England players have be-come a prosaic backcloth toshow off the stellar talents of exotic foreigners. Take the Footballer of the Year award, for example. This year's winner was Gianfranco Zola, in 1996 it was Eric Cantona, in 1995 Jür-

gen Klinsmann. It is enough to make a patriot weep, yet the players themselves are not convinced and not just because they are piqued at being overlooked in the rush to appland the likes of Juninho, etc. Not a single overseas player featured in the Professional Footballers' Association's team of the season and Robert Lee, for one, believes that assessment

Faustino Asprilla, David Ginola and Philippe Albert at Newcastle United, was positively gushing about the qualities of his compatriots as he prepared for England's friendly against South Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday. He insists his peers got it right to vote Alan Shearer player of the year and the football writers wrong to give their award to Zola.

"People underestimate how good English players are," Lee said. "They go on about the foreigners who have come over here and done well. But look at the David Beckhams, the Paul Gascoignes, and players like that. We've got players just as

"I didn't pick any foreigners in my team. Zola was outstanding in a lot of matches, but in some he went missing. Over a year I think the players got it right. Alan Shearer should have got the writers' award for what he did in the European Championships and for finishing top scorer despite missing a third of the season through injury. That was a remarkable achieve-

Lee, a midfield player who has forced himself to the forefront of Glenn Hoddle's think-

against Mexico and Georgia in the last two months, fears that the English game might suffer in the rush to import mercenaries. "Some of the foreigners, like Zola and Juninho, are world-class players," he said. "The problem is that if you bring too many in who are not, then

there's trouble for the young

players coming through.
"We don't make enough of our own players. When you see a foreign player do something, like in the Cup final when Zola flicked it back for Newton to score, there's such a fuss. John Motson was going mad about that but Paul Gascoigne could have done that with his eyes shut. It was just a back flick.

Lee, who has two years left on his contract, said: "I've had speculation about wanting to go back to London since I was at Newcastle. It's out of my hands. If Kenny wants to sell me there's not a lot I can do about that. Ideally, I don't want to

leave, with the European Cup coming up, and we're a very big Gascoigne



included a get-out clause in

dub. But it's not down to me any

"Nothing surprises me in football, except Eric Cantona retiring. Everybody knows there will be changes at Newcastle."

The fee for a Lee move is estimated at £2.5m, huge for a 31vear-old but, as he puts it cheap for an England played He is delighted that his if ternational career has been revived, having, this time last year, kicked his heels on England's Far East tour only fo

omitted from Venables' squad. "When I was left out T thought it was the end," he said. "It was a big blow. If I had expected it. I could have prepared myself for it. I played against Hungary and then I was due to play against China, but I was iniured and told to rest my injury. I thought I was resting it for Euro 96 but it turned out I was

resting for a lot longer. "I feel as fit as I've ever been, a lot fitter than I probably was when I was at Charlton and a lot younger. I only moved into centre midfield three years ago and it's a new lease of life. It's like starting from scratch."

#### ing with compelling displays Hoddle impressed by

Indeed Lee, a team-mate of Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, is delighted with Paul Gascoigne's transformation into a picture of fitness. And now Hoddle hopes that his sleck figure is matched by a mental sharpness for the World Cup

challenge in Poland in 10 days. "He's looking as lean and tit as anything," said Hoddle, who had been critical of the Rangers player's lifestyle and approach as he battled back from injury. man missing the match in Katowice, Gascoigne could be the hero again. He is set for his England comeback in the warm-up game against South Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday, six months

after his last cap in Georgia. He has a new look all-round. It is indicative, that he has finally listened to Hoddle's ultimatum that he bad to change or

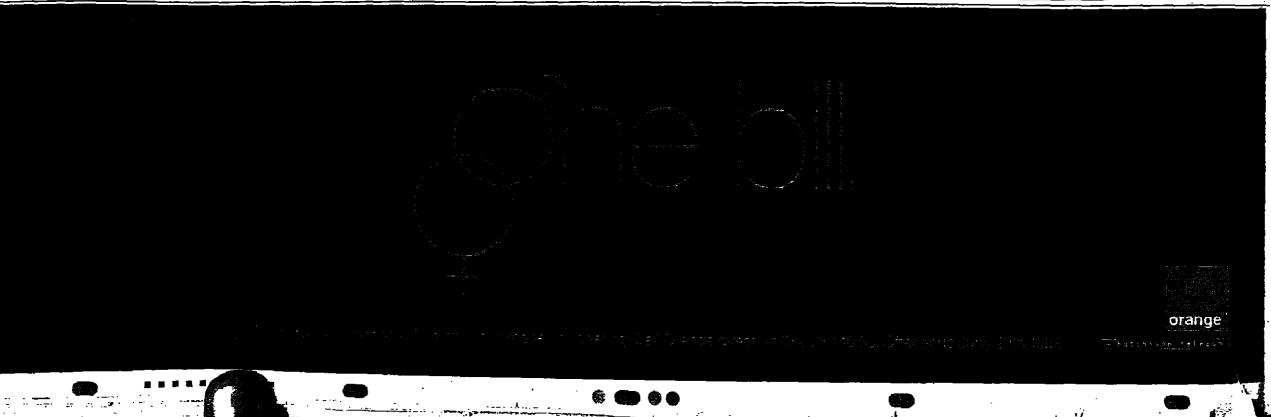
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pay the price. "His attitude is With Paul Merson, Matthew Le Tissier and Steve McManavery good at the moment," Hoddle said.

"He's obviously given himself the best opportunity by getting himself back fit to stamp his authority on games when he plays. He hasn't exactly lost weight, he's now turned it into muscle, which is the best thing to do. He's done a lot of gym work." Gascoigne has also played seven testimonials in 15 days to get match sharp.

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